Alabama.

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937

Ala. Housing Project Gets Rentals Revealed By PWA Administrator

1-30-37

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Preparing to open the second project on PWA's national program of slum clearance and low-rent housing, Public Works Administrator Harold L. Ickes this week fixed rents for the William B. Paterson Courts development here. Homes in the project will rent for an average of $2 per week ($1 per room per week) for two rooms up to $4.50 for five rooms.

Under the George-Healey Act, which governs the renting of Housing Division projects, they are restricted to families of established low income, not exceeding five times the rent and utility charges. These utility charges for heat, light and cooking will be paid by tenants. Rents have been set as follows:

Unit	Average Weekly Rent
2 rooms	$2.00
3 rooms	2.80
4 rooms	3.60
5 rooms	4.50

For these rentals tenants will receive modern sanitary homes, in marked contrast to the dilapidated and overcrowded slum conditions from which they will move. Occupying only about 20 per cent of the land, the new group houses are surrounded by landscaped areas, with space provided for children's playgrounds; and each house has a private yard suitable for gardens. Being only two rooms deep, all will enjoy of cross ventilation.

Selection of tenants for the project will be started in a few days, Administrator Ickes stated. As soon as sufficient tenants have been chosen to start operations, the development will be opened and families installed in their new homes. Already 500 families have applied for the 156 units which are available.

Figures given cover rent for high grade fireproof homes, comprising two, three, four and five rooms each with kitchen and bath. Houses are grouped about open courts on a seven acre plot. These court sface the campus of the Alabama State Teachers College, for the training of colored teachers. The site, located in an area known as "Bogue Homme," was formerly occupied by 80 families and was one of the worst slum areas of Montgomery.

According to surveys just completed in connection with William B. Paterson Courts, there are 5,940 self-sustaining Negro families in Montgomery who live in housing which is not decent, safe or sanitary. Close to 2,000 of these will be eligible, on the score of income at least, to become tenants of the new community.

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
March 8, 1937

Nine More Families In Paterson Courts

Nine additional families were reported to have moved yesterday into William B. Paterson Courts, the Government's housing project for negroes, bringing the number of apartments now occupied to 35. If the moving schedule is followed the rest of the week, 56 families will be housed in the buildings by Saturday night. Twenty-six families had been installed last Saturday.

At the William B. Paterson Courts there are nearly 600 applications for the 156 apartments, but a number of these applicants have failed to qualify as tenants, it was said. The rental ranges from $2 to $3.50 an apartment a week, collections to be made at the office on the grounds every Saturday.

The demand for apartments at Riverside Heights is also heavy, with 280 applications on file for the 100 units.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
June 18, 1937

THOUSAND DOLLARS A ROOM

The William B. Paterson courts, the exemplary housing project for negroes in Montgomery, represent an investment of $522,000 according to PWA Director Geismer. They consist of 524 rooms with provision for 156 families. This means roughly a cost of $1,000 per room for these living quarters, or $3,345 per family unit. Perhaps the government can stand that kind of cost for its so-called low-housing, but certainly no private individual could hope to make such outlay and get an adequate return upon his money even at exceptionally low interest rates. Since the construction experiment was to be made however, Montgomery is glad that this city was chosen. No old Montgomery citizen can be but impressed by the remarkable change this development has brought about in the Bogahomme region.

Livingston, Ala., News
June 10, 1937

WANTS FOOD DELIVERED BY GOVERNMENT

Right recently a Brewersville farmer met up with a negro farmer who is on relief. The negro was there, he told the white farmer, to get his rations from the Government. This food consisted of rice, oatmeal, meat, grape juice and other groceries that many of the white farmers not on releif, cannot afford to buy. The negro on releif complained of having to walk after the groceries given him by Uncle Sam's agents and said they should be delivered to his home where they "blonged". Many of these able bodied negro men and women, who are fed by the government refuse to hire to help make the food crops. The crops are in the grass and farm labor in many sections is scarce. If this continues draw your own conclusions.

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 13, 1937

NEGRO RENTS IN BIRMINGHAM

To the Editor The News:

While the subject of increased rents is aired in Birmingham, I wish to mention the unjust increased high rents imposed on the Negro rental population of the city, notwithstanding the fact that the condition of the houses in most instances should make Birmingham bury her face in the ground like an ostrich when visitors come to the city. I am sure some will deny this. Why these shacks and cabins of many decades are classed with steam-heated apartments and other property in calling for rent increase is more than I can see. This increase is from 50 to 100 per cent, equal to $7 per month or a two-room, black-walled cabin, most of them with roofs that would delight the heart of an astronomer to study the stars while in bed, to $15 for a five-room house in similar condition. Some of these houses even have outdoor privies. The question is, should these houses already overcharged for go in for increased rent, notwithstanding the fact that this type of property is built for investment, and that in the period of the depression the Negro along with all others paid little or no rent.

I am also happy that some of the critics of Mr. George Leighton's article in Harpers' have not spent a Winter in one of these Negro cabins impossible to heat, or I am sure there would have been less criticism. We know that what was said concerning Negro houses was true, in spite of the picture in the paper the other day showing some of the fair conditions of exterior of houses, for cameras hide much and never penetrate.

The Negro renter would appreciate his case along with others in getting relief from this injustice.

A. C. BELL.

1600 20th Ave. Ensley.

Andalusia, Ala., News
June 24, 1937

THOUSAND DOLLARS A ROOM

The William B. Paterson courts, the exemplary housing project for negroes in Montgomery, represent an investment of $522,000 according to PWA Director Geismer. They consist of 524 rooms with provision for 156 families. This means roughly a cost of $1,000 per room for these living quarters, or $3,345 per family unit. Perhaps the government can stand that kind of cost for its so-called low-housing but certainly no private individual could hope to make such outlay and get an adequate return upon his money even at exceptionally low interest rates. Since the construction experiment was to be made however, Montgomery is glad that this city was chosen. No old Montgomery citizen can be but impressed by the remarkable change this development has brought about in the Bogahomme region.--Montgomery Journal.

Selma Project Okehed

SELMA, ALA., Aug. 22.—(Special)—Final consent of the City of Selma to the WPA project of a community house for negroes for which an appropriation of $23,000 was secured recently at Washington by Dr. E. W. Gamble, of Selma, will be sought tomorrow night by Dr. Gamble and members of the project's sponsoring committee, at the regular session of the City Council. Selection of the site must be made before the plan of providing a community house with rest rooms can be put into operation here.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
August 19, 1937

COURT TO BE READY FOR USE BY OCT. 1

Negro Workers Will Be Used On Smithfield Project

Smithfield Court, the Negro low cost housing project constructed here by the Public Works Administration, will probably be ready for occupancy on Oct. 1 and will be operated by a colored staff under the direction of a white man as Southeastern area manager, members of the Birmingham Advisory Committee said Wednesday.

The white area manager and colored members of the staff personnel will all be appointed by Edgar F. Puryear, director of emergency employment for the Federal Administration of Public Works, although recommendations for all positions will be made by Congressman Luther Patrick and the Birmingham committee, consisting of Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church; Kelvie Applebaum, attorney, and Dr. J. G. Vance, physician. D. L. White, president of the Jefferson County Negro Democratic Club, will also offer suggestions on the selections.

Birmingham, Ala. News
October 17, 1937

ANNUAL CHARITY APPEAL DRIVE TO BE FAST, SNAPPY

Dutch Breakfast On Monday Will Signal Start Of Appeal Campaign

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT TO INSPIRE WORKERS

Landgrebe Confident Goal Of $455,429.69 Will Be Quickly Attained

"We are all set and ready to go and we propose to raise the minimum quota of the fifteenth annual appeal of Birmingham and Jefferson County's Community Chest, in the amount of $455,429.69, before the end of this week, if at all possible," said Karl Landgrebe, general chairman of this chest appeal, Saturday night, and in this statement he was seconded by John Parks Newsome, his cochairman.

Hundreds of volunteers will gather at the mass "Dutch" breakfast and inspirational meeting Monday morning at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel, for the "kick off" of the general solicitation work, which will begin immediately after the breakfast.

Dr Richard Clark Foster, president of the University of Alabama, will be the keynote speaker for this inauguration of the active campaign, and leaders of this appeal promise a rare inspirational address to all who will come out to hear him. His address will also be broadcast over station WAPI.

The breakfast program beings at 7:45 a.m. with music by Bill Nappi's orchestra, whose members are donating their services for this occasion, and the invocation will be given by Monsignor Eugene Sands. Chairman Landgrebe, who will preside, will introduce the first speaker, Thomas W. Martin, president of the Community Chest, and this will be followed by short reports from Mrs. M. E. Morland, chairman of the women's division; Mrs. Frank P. Samford, her cochairman; C. Eugene Ireland, chairman of the industrial division; John E. Bryan chairman of the county division; A Key Foster, chairman of the publicity division, and others. Cochairman Newsome of the appeal will make a short explanation of the organization setup, and a short talk will be made by Lee McEachern chairman of the Junior Red Cross Council of the city and county high schools, in charge of chest appeal activities in the schools.

Hugh Kaul, chairman of the commercial division will introduce the leaders of the various groups of the eastern and western territory, which include, in the east division: Howard B. Richards, chairman, and Robert H. Mangum, cochairman, with the selected groups under the direction of Maclin F. Smith and William H. Pitts, and the street divisions, under direction of R. E. Simmons and Marvin P. Randall.

The western territory of the commercial division, is in charge of Harold B. Blach as chairman, and Paul C. Vaughan, cochairman, and their selected groups are under direction of Frank Drake and William P. Engel, while their street division of solicitors is led by Holden Naf and Barney DeRamus.

The program will close with the inspirational address by Dr. Foster, and the entire program will be kept within one hour's time, according to A. Key Foster chairman of the publicity division, and in charge of the arrangements for the program.

By action of the Birmingham Pastors Union this Sunday has been set aside as "Community Chest Sunday," and in many churches the pastors will preach special sermons on the significance of the Community Chest enterprise and its needs while four-minute speakers of the appeal speakers bureau will present the cause to various congregations at the morning service, and will also address various Sunday School groups and young people's organizations during the day.

The raising of the minimum quota of $455,429.69 for this chest appeal, has been allotted to the various divisions as follows: The commercial division is expected to raise $232,871.21, or more than one-half of the entire quota, and of this amount the solicitors in the eastern territory are asked to raise $135,534.75, and those in the western territory, $97,336.46. The women's division has a minimum quota of $33,905.09; industrial division, $152,167.55, while the Bessemer division quota of $7,823.80 is the quota only for their street, commercial and women's divisions, and the balance of Bessemer's quota is included in the county industrial quota of $152,167.55. Other quotas of this chest appeal include county division, $1,632.65; headquarters, $16,121.32, and Negro division, $1,673.83.

Norman E. Thompson, chairman, and Charles E. Hawkins, cochairman of the Bessemer division, will also have a "kick-off" breakfast for about 100 volunteer solicitors at 8:30 a.m. Monday at the Bessemer Y. M. C. A., and have also prepared a short and snappy program, which has been arranged so that they will hear Dr. Foster via radio at the same time he speaks at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel. Chairman Thompson also announces that Bessemer Negroes have called a mass meeting for Wednesday night which promises to be a largely attended event.

"I am absolutely convinced that this job will be done and finished successfully," said Cochairman Newsome. "But I want to urge every volunteer solicitor to be on hand for the 'kick-off' breakfast and to be ready to go to the territory assigned to him or her immediately after the breakfast. If we go right at this without delay and do not permit any procrastination to creep in, we will wind the whole thing up in less than a week and everyone can go back to their own work and responsibilities in short order. Therefore, let us make it short, snappy and successful. And remember the slogan, 'Be a Good Neighbor.'"

Mrs. Morland, chairman of the women's division, also made a special plea to all volunteer workers of her division to attend the Monday morning breakfast and urged them to keep in mind the special slogan of the women's division, "Every Woman a Contributor."

A large crowd was also predicted to be on hand for the mass meeting of the Negro division at 3 p.m. Sunday at the North Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, when Dr. Charles Satchell Morris II, professor of English and sociology at Tennessee State College, Nashville, will speak, according to William L. McAlpine, chairman of the Negro division.

Birmingham, Ala., Age Herald
December 11, 1937

$4,500,000 FOR HOMES HERE SET

Sum For Housing Plan Dependent On Terms Being Met

WHITE LOW-RENTAL UNITS IN BALANCE

J. M. Jones Says City Is Unable To Contribute Required 10 Per Cent

An allocation of $4,500,000 has been made by the U. S. Housing Authority for a white low-cost housing project in Birmingham similar to the Smithfield Court projects for Negroes, U. S. Senator John H. Bankhead and Representative Luther Patrick announced Friday afternoon in Washington, but it remained to be seen whether the city could meet the terms of the government on which the grant was conditional.

City Commission President J. M. Jones declared Friday night that the city can not advance the 10 per cent of total cost of the housing project required by the act creating the National Housing Authority.

The Negro project cost approximately $2,500,000, so that the white project would evidently be much more extensive on the basis of Friday's allocation.

J. C. deHoll, chairman of the Birmingham Housing Authority who returned Friday night from Washington where he went to push the project, said he was confident all difficulties in the way of obtaining the project would be overcome.

No Trouble Anticipated

"I don't anticipate any trouble at all," Mr. deHoll said. "The city won't have to put up its 10 per cent in cash, and I am sure that after I confer with Mr. Jones Saturday, he will be with us 100 per cent.

"The question of additional legislation is one that every state will have to face sooner or later if it is going to have low-cost housing projects. We cannot expect anything of that type if we are going to make the government pay taxes on improvements. The most the city can ask for is the same amount of taxes they are now getting. I don't think it is right to ask the government to pay taxes on improvements that don't cost us anything."

Belief that some way will be found for Birmingham to get the big housing project was expressed Friday night by G. C. Leigh, business representative of Painters and Paper Hangers Local Union No. 57, an American Federation of Labor affiliate.

Leigh Confident

"We are not the least bit worried about the question of the city's ability to raise its pro rata share," Mr. Leigh, long known as a spokesman for organized labor here, said. "Similar difficulties were overcome in raising funds for the Negro project.

"They told us before in Washington that if we would go back home and meet with our City Commission, they were sure means could be found to comply with the federal law requiring the city to contribute its share. We hope the City Commission will cooperate with the local housing authority as when we got the Negro project, and then I feel sure we will get the white project giving employment to thousands of building tradesmen for about a year's time. Senator Bankhead and Representatives Patrick and Hill have cooperated fully in getting the allocation with representatives of the building trades now in Washington in the interest of the project. These representatives are J. W. Driver, Roy Copeland and R. H. McDuffie.

"An executive board meeting of the Building Trades Council will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Ben-Hur Hall to push the project."

Letters To The Editor

Please be brief. We reserve the right to cut letters more than 300 words long

JUBILEE WEEK FOR AGED, INFIRM NEGROES

Editor The Advertiser:

For five years the Jones Bible School on this date has announced through the columns of The Advertiser a Jubilee Week for aged and infirm Negroes during which time they are fed, cared for and transported the entire week of the Christmas holidays to the Taborian Hall, corner North Decatur and Randolph Streets, and at 19 Garrison Street, the dining room of the Jones Bible School.

This Jubilee Week was inaugurated in 1933 by the Jones Bible School, who knew of the suffering and unhappiness that the Christmas holidays brought to thousands of aged, helpless Negroes who so often are deserted by their kindred and children when they reach an advanced age without money and visible means of support.

When these conditions were made known, the Jones Bible School once got the support of the city officials, Chamber of Commerce, First Baptist Church (white), Baraca Bible Class, Exchange Club and a host of white citizens and firms. Five hundred were served the first day the Baraca assisted. Since we have been feeding the aged and destitute through the Christmas holidays, ending New Year's Sunday, Jan. 2, 1938, the police records show a decline in crime during the holiday season.

The Jones Bible School wishes to concur with Hon. F. D. Salter on Dec. 6. He says that suffering is at its highest peak since 1933.

At the Sunday service of the Jones Bible School we have aged people who come barefooted and ragged, seeking aid.

We are asking our white charities, friends, ministers, citizens and firms who have met every call of the Jones Bible School in the past to please give us $200 to sponsor this Jubilee Week for aged paupers, and whatever old clothing they may possess.

We must appeal to our white citizinery for help because the class of people that I appeal for have no money, no job, no income, and no friends. I wish to thank the public for sponsoring this Jubilee Week for five years and we endeavor to pay you for giving us this Christmas joy in loyalty, obedience and submissiveness.

Those mailing checks make payable to the Jones Bible School and let them reach me if possible by Dec. 21. Those having old shoes and clothes to give phone Jones Bible School, Walnut-1532-J. 19 Garrison Street.

B. P. JONES,
Founder and director.

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937 American Red Cross.

Red Cross Chiefs Cite Policy For Embodying Race Workers

Defender 5-15-37 Chicago, Illinois

D. C. Meet Candidly Discusses Racial Issues To Be Rectified

WASHINGTON, May 14—Meeting at American Red Cross headquarters here Monday, a committee representing various organizations heard officials describe the vivid rescue efforts and relief operations of the Red Cross, particularly as they affected the Race during the recent disastrous Ohio and Mississippi Valley flood.

The group, which met at the invitation of the Red Cross and which came armed with reports regarding conditions in the flood area, some critcal, most, however, distinctly favorable, discussed with candor and frankness problems arising during disasters. These included racial attitudes and proscription, effective relief for those who lost homes, furniture and other belongings, the possibility of integrating more trained Race workers into the Red Cross personnel, as well as the development of policies on race relationship.

In attendance were Vice Chairman James L. Feiser of the Red Cross, Dewitt Smith in charge of operation; Dr. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk university; Eugene Kinckle Jones, executive secretary of the National Urban League; Mrs. Estelle Massey Riddle, Miss Mary E. Williams, representing Dr. F. D Patterson of Tuskegee Institute; George W. Haynes, Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the NAACP.

120 Red Cross Nurses

It was revealed that for the first time in a disaster of this proportion. the Race has been officially included among the trained personnel of the Red Cross.

The committee was especially interested in the use of Race members on advisory boards in various communities. These boards, important in times of emergency, pass on awards and generally help to shape Red Cross policies in their local communities.

In the past, Mr. Feiser said, Race workers who were trained had not been available in such large numbers. Nurses are increasingly qualifying and registering for Red Cross service. It is from such lists carried at Red Cross headquarters permanently that nurses are drawn when a catastrophe develops.

Correct Discriminations

In practically every instance where discrimination had been charged, DeWitt Smith, upon whose shoulders had rested the task of directing the huge flood operation, was able to show his hearers that the Red Cross had lived up to its creed of no distinction because of race, creed or color and that local authorities and conditions were responsible for whatever disadvantageous situations developed rather than the Red Cross.

Specifically, among the instances reported was on in Paducah, Ky., where colored doctors were reported to have been paid $65 per month, while white doctors got $10 per day.

It is the policy of the Red Cross, Mr. Smith explained, not to compensate doctors at all. Physicians are expected to donate their services.

Atlanta School of Social Work

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

SOCIAL WORK SCHOOL GIVEN HIGH RATING

The Atlanta School of Social Work was awarded the highly high rating by the American Association of Schools of Social Work at its annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Reports showed that the Atlanta school, the only negro institution among the 32 members of the association, was included in the top bracket in every classification in which such schools are rated.

Social Conditions, Improvement of —1937

Connecticut

CARVER CENTER IN N.E. INCORPORATES

ANSONIA, Conn.—Incorporation papers have been filed by the Carver Community Center which has been organized to "improve the conditions among colored people of Ansonia, Seymour, Derby, and Shelton" by providing training in household duties and arts.

The incorporators are Dr. Herbert A. Roberts, Mrs. Ida Whitted, Miss Annie C. Wilson, William J. Kirby and Russell Tinney.

They met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Kirby, last week, and elected the following members of the board of directors: The Rev. Otto W. Burtner, Dr. Melvin F. Davis, Mrs. Mildred A. Goodfellow, Mrs. Kirby, Miss Faustina Whitted, Thomas C. McDuffie and Robert Byrd.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

D.C.

Unofficial Washington Lives in Squalor, Poverty in Shadow Of White House; Discrimination Against Negroes Is Rife

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 12.—Although one would naturally expect that in the capital of the United States, the laws governing which are passed directly by Congress and not by any local legislature, would be a model for the country to follow, with high standards of health, relief and democracy, just the opposite is the case.

The people of Washington, D. C., have been complaining loudly and bitterly about the high cost of living. But their complaints fall on deaf ears and instead of improving, the situation grows worse. The latest scandal is an increase in street-car fares to eight and two-thirds cents per ride. The Capital Traction Company brazenly admits that the increase is not to cover increased expenses but is for the purpose of accumulating money with which to buy additional cars. These cars, however, will not belong to the public which is paying for them but to the capitalists who own the Capital Traction Co. This steal has been approved by the Public Utilities Commission.

Washington has the highest cost of living of any city in the United States and one of the major items causing this is the high rent charged. Two-room apartments average $50 per month. People who cannot afford that have to live in very unhealthy houses. Frequently these houses have no baths and the city does not have any public bath houses.

Although the cost of living is the highest in the country the standard of relief to unemployables is that of region No. 2, which means enough to exist on in cities with a low cost of living but obviously not enough to live on in Washington. Furthermore, this relief is given only to "unemployables," to the sick or crippled or aged. For employables, people out of work but who have not become ill yet, **there is no relief at all.** Fortunately Washington is the only major city in the country that denies relief to employables but that does not help the people of Washington.

Naturally the health situation is appalling. The city has the highest tuberculosis death rate in the country. But instead of doing anything about it attacks are being directed against the people. This year the appropriation given for a seven-cent lunch to hungry school children has been discontinued. Now a sales tax is being proposed in order to relieve the big retail stores of a business tax to which they object.

About 80 per cent of the unemployed are Negroes and in order to keep them quiet under these conditions the police brutality equals that of the deep South. Scores of Negroes have been murdered by the police and none of the officers punished. And in a further effort to stifle any protest the welfare agencies refuse to deal with committees of the Workers Alliance and insist on dealing with the individual applicants for aid.

ORGANIZATION GOOD

The reason such a situation can exist is not any lack of organization on the part of the people. Out of a total population of about 600,000 there are over 100,000 members of trade unions. And there are 70 well organized and active Citizens Associations covering every neighborhood of the city. Both unions and Citizens Associations are active in oppistion to high rents, to carfare increases, etc. Moreover, the citizens associations are quite progressive and brought sufficient pressure to bear on Congress to effect the repeal of the notorious 'Red Rider.'

But Washington is a perfect example of what happens to the living standards of the people when their democratic rights are denied them. (The deterioration of the position of the workers in fascist countries after the suppression of their liberties is well known. In our own South, the Negroes, being deprived of their constitutional rights and prevented from voting, have a standard of living even lower than that of the poor whites.) Since 1874 the people of the District of Columbia have been unconstitutionally deprived of their right of local self government, and that is the reason their grievances meet with no remedy.

NO LOCAL CONTROL

From time to time until the early 1870's Congress enacted laws governing the holding of elections and the local legislature with a mayor sometimes appointed but later on elected by popular vote. But in 1874 disregarding the Declaration of Rights which says that everyone ought to have the right of suffrage and that elections ought to be frequent, Congress repealed the laws providing for elections and a legislature and vested the executive power in the District of Columbia in three appointed Commissioners. Since there is no longer any legislature, Congress itself now has to pass local ordinances for the District. As a result, the people have no control over their local affairs and the people suffer. Questions of housing, rent, carfares, health, police and relief would be more easily corrected if the officials in charge had to stand for re-election.

This year, however, there has been organized the Citizens Committee for Progressive Action of which Mr. Karl Gerber, a member of the Board of Trade, is chairman. This is a committee of progressive individuals who were active in obtaining the repeal of the "Red Rider." They are now engaged in spreading propaganda for local self-government.

NO AGREEMENT YET

There has also been organized the District of Columbia Association for Suffrage of which Mr. Wilbur S. Finch of the Burroughs Citizens Association is chairman. This association is actively engaged in obtaining the support of citizens' associations for the idea of local self-government. Although some associations have refused to take a stand on this question a great many of them are affiliating to this committee. The two committees have the same objectives and are not antagonistic to each other.

In order for the District of Columbia to again have its own local self-government it is only necessary for Congress to pass the appropriate bill and if an active campaign for that purpose is organized it is quite likely that the bill can be passed. But up to the present there has been no agreement as to the contents of such a bill.

Whether Washington should have a Mayor, a city manager of elected commissioners, whether the legislature should have one or two chambers, whether elections should be by political parties or non-partisan, whether representation in the legislature should be on the basis of neighborhoods or city-wide, whether or not there should be proportional representation, are questions which up to now have not been seriously discussed in Washington.

UNITY NEEDED

Another question to which not much attention has yet been paid is that of political parties. The Republican and Democratic party organization have been engaged solely in organizing the non-residents—government workers—for voting in their home states. The local branches of the Communist and Socialist parties have paid too little attention to local politics and there is no Labor's Non-Partisan League. Actually local politics is in the hands of the citizens associations and they will no doubt become the basis of ward political organizations when suffrage is obtained. It is important for the future progress and well being of the city that these associations do not divide into Democratic and Republican clubs. They should become, together with the trades unions, a sort of District of Columbia Commonwealth Federation. This is the probable form of the Peoples Front in Washington. In its achievement lies the hope of the people for decent standards of relief, for a higher standard of health, for a lower cost of living.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

D.C.

1,000 Pack Auditorium at Second Night of Tribune Cooking School

Eighth Tribune Cooking School Opening Session

Over 2,000 Washington housewives packed the Murray Casino Tuesday evening to attend the second class of the Washington Tribune's Eighth Annual Cooking School. The top picture shows the prizewinners who held the lucky tickets which entitled them to receive the 20 baskets of heavy-laden groceries and other valuable prizes which are awarded nightly. The lower photograph shows a section of the interested women as they listened to the demonstrators. The third class will be held this Friday evening. The school is the only one conducted in Washington by a local colored newspaper.

Has Overflow Crowd

First to Start, Same Demonstrator Each Year, 20 Bags of Food and Special Prizes Given Away Each Night. Gas Stove Grand Prize

The eighth annual cooking school sponsored by The Washington Tribune open last Friday night with an overflow crowd at the Murray Casino, 918 U Street, Northwest, over the Tribune office.

The Tribune was the first Negro newspaper to start cooking school and it has been fortunate in securing the same demonstrator each time in the person of Missmint Ruth Sheldon who is the regular demonstrator for the Washington Gas Light Company.

The displays of the various advertisers are attractive and add much to the appearance of the auditorium.

The first night was given over to the following menu: Swiss steak, carrots supreme, cherry ice cream, mocha cream filling, candied fruit peel, moacha spice cake, quick butter frosting and salmon club sandwiches.

A session will be held each Tuesday and Friday at the Murray Casino until February 2

Miss Sheldon is assisted by Miss Zimmer of the Wilkins-Rogers Milling Company.

On the last night, February 9, a modern gas range will be given away free. It is now on display in The Tribune's display window at 920 U Street, Northwest.

Food and other prizes are given away each night. Get your number at the door as you enter and hold on to your stub until the last night and see who will get the modern gas stove. Demonstrations from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Prize Winners

Among the prize winners Friday night were: Mrs. Josie Waller, 557 Twenty-forth Street, Northeast who drew one-half gallon of ice cream from Southern Dairies Ice Cream Company; Mrs. Willie A. Johnson, 554 Twenty-Fourth Street, Northeast, a case of beer from the Heurich Brewing Company; Miss Viola K. Dock, 1101 Fairmont Street, Northwest, a case of beer from the Gunther Brewing Company; Mrs. M. B. Morton, 1308 Wallack Place, Northwest, a smoking stand from the Manhattan Radio Company; Mrs. Bertha Berry, 1204 V Street, Northwest, a present from Phil Bobys Company; Mrs. Mickey, 2134 Thirteenth Street, Northwest, a luncheon set from Mme. Causby.

Mrs. J. A. Tinsley, 122 S Street, Northwest, a 12-lb. bag of flour from the Wilkins-Rogers Milling Company; Miss Alma Howard, 1372 Kenyon Street, Northwest, the steak dinner prepard and cooked at the school by Miss Ruth Sheldon, Mrs. Anabel Lambert, 2308 Ontario Road, Northwest, a prepared dinner from the school; Hester Williams, 1826 M Street Northwest, candied fruit; Miss C. B. Ryce, 616 Columbia Road, Northwest, candied fruit; Mrs. Edith E. Davis, 2019 Eleventh Street, Northwest, spice cake; Mrs. Mary Ellen Brown, 1906 Sixteenth Street, Northwest, candied fruit; Rosa Scott, 1348 Wallach Place, Norhwest, candied fruit.

Mrs. Carry Camp, 907 Ninth Street, Northwest, two club sandwiches; Bertha Porter, 710 Florida Avenue, Northwest, two club sandwiches. All of this food was prepared during the demonstration.

The following persons received bags of food, given away by The Tribune Cooking School:

Mrs. H. Maria Smith, 328 T Street, Northwest; Miss Nevada Mclankin, 1756 V Street, Northwest; Lucille Bobbett, 946 S Street, Northwest; Olivia Morris, 441 Rhode Island Avenue, Northwest; Blanche Drew, 1303 Corcoran Street, Northwest; Mrs. D. C. Dickerson, 1030 Fairmont Street Nothwest; Alice Marshall, 1827 Sixth Street, Northwest; Miss R. N. Harvey, 2006 Thirteenth Street, Northwest; Mrs. Letia Cole, 2436 K Street Northwest; Mrs. Bertha Schenck, 1108 Vermont Avenue Northwest; Mary Bell Green, 2118 Tenth Street, Northwest; Mrs. Susie Lucas, 1903 Fifteenth Street, Northwest; Mrs. Marie Rector, 2009 Second Street, Northwest; Mrs. B. L. Young 1917 Eleventh Street Northwest; EDith Thomason, 1702 Vermont Avenue, Northwest; Rosetta Wood, 1316 U Street, Northwest; Mrs. Alice B. Green, 1204 Lamont Stret, Northwest; Mrs. Mattie West, 1447 Corcoran Street, Northwest and Miss Grace Butler, 20 Q Street, Northwest.

The following persons received a quart of milk from Chestnut Farms Dairy Company:

Mrs. Julia Williams, Miss Lynnie R. Smith, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Flood, Minnie Norwood, Miss Mary Clarke, Marion Reel, Eva M. Wright, Miss Florence Hurley, Ladonna Bundy, Miss Margaret Williams, Mrs. Cason Butler, Mrs. E. O. Garner, Mrs. A. I. Beasley, Mrs. Maggie Jivens, Mrs. Marian Bowman, Mrs. Mabel Penn, Mrs. Sarah Clarke, Miss Beatrice Jones and Miss Katherine Dyer.

Two-Thirds of D.C. Needy are Colored, Says Street

3-20-37

Board of Public Welfare Caring for 20,000 Persons Here

The District will spend 8 million dollars in caring for 20,000 persons during the coming year, said Elwood W. Street, director of the Board of Public Welfare addressing a group of members and friends at the Musolit Club Friday night.

About two-thirds of this number are colored, he said. The speaker declared that no difference is made as to color or creed as far as service is concerned.

The largest number of persons served by the Public Assistance Division, which includes the Municipal Lodging House and the Home for the Aged and Infirm, he pointed out. This division is caring for about 7,000 persons at the present time, and spending two and one-half million dollars.

Calling it a travesty on the standard of American living, Street deplored the fact that there are about 3,000 cases involving 10,000 persons which are listed as employables who are barred from receiving relief. Although this group is needy, no provision has been made to aid them. Funds are available for unemployables only.

Street urged citizens to petition members of Congress to restore sufficient funds to care for this group.

250 T B Beds Here

In the child welfare division there are 1,700 children, with 1,400 being cared for in foster homes, he explained. The board pays for the care of those who are in private homes.

The medical service group includes Gallinger Hospital, the children's T. B. Camp at Fourteenth and Upshur Streets, and the Tuberculosis Hospital at Glendale. There are 950 beds in the District available for tuberculosis patients, Street said.

The welfare director recounted the needs for additional space in the delinquency group which includes the District Jail, Lorton Reformatory and the workhouse at Occoquan.

The jail is caring for 600 inmates at the present, he said, it was built to accommodate 300. He cited the staggering cost of caring for the insane and said that $2300.000 is the average cost per year to maintain this institution. It is the second largest sum spent by the board for its various agencies in the District, he pointed out.

Dr. Robert Pearson, president of the club, presided at the meeting. Wendell Tucker, superintendent of the Home School for Colored Boys, at Blue Plains, introduced the speaker. After the address questions were asked, and later a social session held.

Dr. J. Hayden Johnson, member of the board of education, asked the speaker to include colored persons in staff postions in his program of welfare.

Despite the fact that many thought the Old Age Security Act "would empty the poor houses," Street said that we would always have need of such institutions to care for those who are too infirm or senile to take advantage of the pension in private homes.

—Police Court Judge—

Relief, the Negro's Problem

Elwood Street, director of the Department of Public Welfare, whose department handles the relief set-up here, made some pertinent remarks in his talk at the Mu-so-lit Club the other night which reveal the appalling situation under which our jobless are laboring.

3-20-37 Washington Tribune

For one thing, Mr. Street pointed out, fully two-thirds of the unemployed in the District are colored. Their plight, we are led to believe, is intensified by the fact that there is so limited an opportunity for the Negro to be absorbed in the governmental agencies. Since statistics point out that there are over ten thousand such cases in the District, this makes the Negro jobless less 7,500, with no way to turn for livelihood and security. These cases are dependent upon some three thousand family heads, employable, but not employed.

The strange paradox is that social trends and the "munificence" of Congress have overlooked the plight of unfortunates. But Congress's disregard in this matter is quite understandable.

Social agencies have time and time again pointed out a fact, which is backed by incontrovertible statistics, that the "relief" problem in the District is practically a Negro problem.

The offshoot of this is that Congress, and particularly the District Committee, which is made up of far from understanding elements, has turned a deaf ear on this problem. This is made quite evident by the fact that last year the Representative from Texas, Tom Representative from Texas, Tom Blanton, made some remarks against the Negro jobless, which made quite clear then, as it is clear now, that Congress has little to gain by doing anything for the voteless colored residents of the District.

Blanton said that Negroes were the main problem of relief because so many of them had left the South and made of Washington a "Negro heaven." Those were his words; but intelligent citizens are not agreeing with Mr. Blanton, nor with those who believe the Negro has not a right to travel and pitch his tent, as others do, anywhere he feels that he can make a better go of it.

If all types of aliens can come into this country and settle wherever they wish, certainly can the Negro, who is a *bona fide* and *de jure* citizen of the land. In fact, the Negro should be encouraged at all times to settle in any environment where he feels he has a little chance. And if Washington is such a place, he is welcome here.

And if in getting here opportunities are closed to him because of any form of antagonisms, it is then the plain simple duty of the authorities to protect him and see to it that he gets a chance to live.

Mr. Blanton's explanation does not matter. The people of Texas did well in recalling him from the seat of government. What interests us is the fact that relief has been made a social and political football right under the nose of the New Deal and this is more strongly shown by the Negro's position in the question.

NON-WHITE LEADERS IGGED AT MEETING ON SLUM-CLEARANCE

Afro American

WASHINGTON

Although the non-white population of the United States is hardest hit by virtue of its position in the low-income brackets, no representative of any social organization or outstanding leader was included in the invitations sent out by Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes to discuss a revision of the slum-clearance program.

9-25-37 Baltimore Md

The conference was called at the South Interior Building Monday, with more than two score civic officials in attendance.

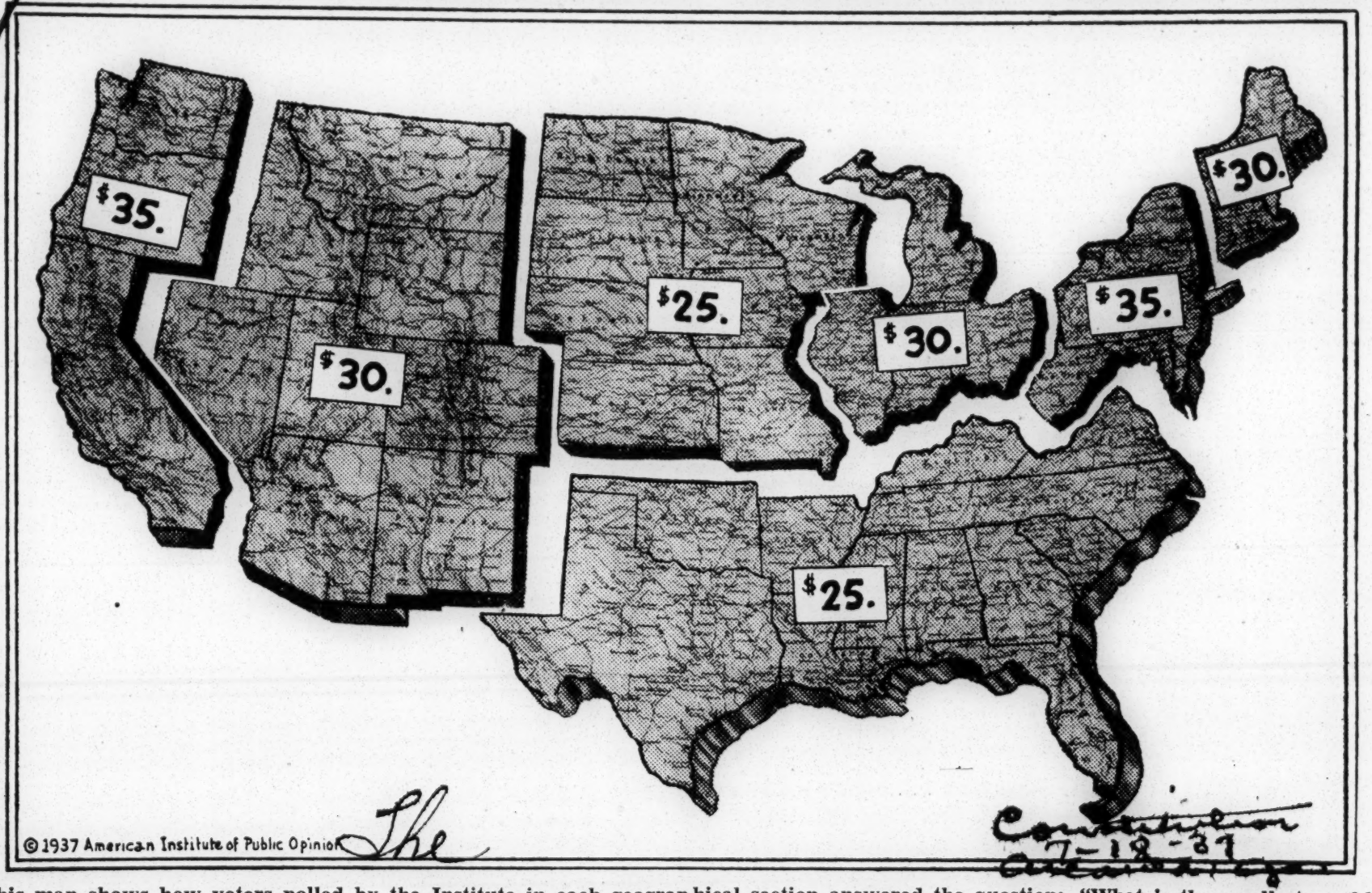
The conference was called by Mr. Ickes, ostensibly, to provide an opportunity for all persons, factions, and elements interested in low-rent housing and slum-clearance to have a "meeting of minds" and work out a clear-cut program upon which the United States Housing Authority may proceed at once.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
Public Opinion

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

The Family.

Voters Name Weekly Income Needed for Decent Living



© 1937 American Institute of Public Opinion

The Constitution 7-18-37 Atlanta, Ga.

This map shows how voters polled by the Institute in each geographical section answered the question: "What is the smallest weekly amount a family of four must have to live decently?"

Sectional Results of American Institute's Income Poll

The "Decency" Standard

What is the smallest weekly amount a family of four must have to live decently?

	By Week	By Year
New England States	$30	$1,560
Middle Atlantic States	$35	$1,820
East Central States	$30	$1,560
West Central States	$25	$1,300
South (excluding Negroes)	$25	$1,300
Mountain States	$30	$1,560
Pacific Coast States	$35	$1,820
NATIONAL AVERAGE (MEDIAN)	$30	$1,560
*Southern Negroes	$12	$ 624

The "Health and Comfort" Standard

How much income a year do you think the average family of four needs for health and comfort?

	By Week	By Year
New England States	$39	$2,020
Middle Atlantic States	$39	$2,030
East Central States	$38	$1,980
West Central States	$33	$1,760
South (excluding Negroes)	$33	$1,760
Mountain States	$38	$2,000
Pacific Coast States	$39	$2,030
NATIONAL AVERAGE (MEDIAN)	$38	$1,950

Birmingham, Ala. News
July 11, 1937

Negro Vote To Feature Next Report

Family Income Poll Concludes Next Sunday

Where is the greatest need for an increased standard of living today—in the North, East, South or West? What do the voters in the different sections of the country regard as necessary for a decent living?

The Institute of Public Opinion has been sounding the viewpoint of citizens in all sections of the country and in every state in the union on this point.

The desired income figures for each section will be reported in The Birmingham News-Age-Herald next Sunday.

In addition to setting the lowest possible figure compatible with a "decent" standard of living for a family of four, voters have been asked to name the amount necessary for a "health and comfort" standard.

Southern Negroes

A special tabulation will be made of the opinions of Southern Negroes. These persons probably have among the lowest actual incomes of all. The government estimates that millions of them average between $250 and $500 a year.

In contrast to the "decency" and "comfort" standards of these voters, the Institute will present the opinions of a special high-salary group earning $15,000 a year and more.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
July 18, 1937

By Institute of Public Opinion

New York, July 17.—Southern Negroes, who by tradition dream of owning a mule, forty acres and a stove-pipe hat, would be content in the meantime with $12 a week.

In an American Institute of Public Opinion survey, $12 is the average sum named by colored people in 13 southern states as the amount a family of four must have to live decently.

"Boss, a nigger just got to have this much, 'cause everything done gone up in price," is the way a colored timber cutter in Stockton, Ala., puts it.

By contrast, white folk in the south name $25 a week as a minimum for a white family. The average for the nation is $30.

As everyone knows many a colored family in the south gets along on just a few dollars a year, raising its own food. Negro farmers polled by the Institute name a much lower figure than those living in cities or towns. The average for farmers is $8 a week, as compared to $14 named by urban Negroes and $12 by colored folk in southern small towns.

The southern Negro's views on income are those of the lower end of the economic scale. For contrast the Institute made a special tabulation of ballots received from the high-salaried upper crust of the white population in all sections—persons earning $15,000 a year or more.

The $15,000-a-year men name $40 a week as the amount necessary for a family of four. That is a little over $2,000 a year, or one-seventh as much as a $15,000 salary.

Typical of hundreds of comments from southern Negroes in the poll are the following:

Alabama farm hand who now earns $1.25 a day and thinks $10 is sufficient for a family: "If I was sho' of $10 I'd git 'long and send my chillun to school."

Colored woman in Trenton, Tennessee, who thinks $6 would be sufficient: "I lives on less than that but stay in debt most of the time. It takes that much to pay all the bills."

Charlotte, N. C., housewife: "I'd like $12 a week. But I'm extravagant."

Bartow, Fla., housewife: "Sixteen dollars a week is about right. This would include a small sum for the church and you can't be decent unless you contribute to the church."

Atlanta rags buyer: "Eighteen dollars is enough. A colored family can live cheaper than a white family. The rent ain't so much."

Dallas farmer: "I believe a family of Negroes could live comfortably on $8 a week."

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
July 18, 1937

Negroes In South Say $12 a Week Is Minimum Needed by Them

BY INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC OPINION

NEW YORK, July 17.—Southern negroes, who by tradition dream of owning a mule, 40 acres and a stove-pipe hat, would be content in the meantime with $12 a week.

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By contrast, white folk in the south name $25 a week as a minimum for a white family. The average for the nation is $30.

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Dallas farmer: "I believe a family of negroes could live comfortably on $8 a week."

Birmingham, Ala. News
July 23, 1937

LIVING NEEDS OF NEGROES

To the Editor The News:

The American Institute of Public Opinion survey of Sunday, July 18, showed that $12 a week was the average sum named by Negroes in 13 Southern states as the amount a family of four must have to live decently.

If this is true, there are only three conclusions to make:

1. All the Negroes supplying this information for the public opinion survey are getting their food and clothes free plus $12 a week.

2. Their definition of "decency" doesn't accord with Webster's.

3. Maybe some unknown influence put the words in the Negroes' mouths.

The public opinion survey also stated that everyone knows many a Negro family in the South gets along on just a few dollars a year, raising their own food.

Negro farmers polled by the Institute of Public Opinion named a much lower figure than those living in the city or town. The average for farmers is $8 a week, as compared to $12 for Negroes in small Southern towns and $14 for city Negroes. After reading this Public Opinion survey of what the Negro thinks it would cost to live decently, or rather what he is obligated to live on, then you have read what constitutes the so-called race problem. In reality, it is the Negroes' economic problem.

A good solution to this is to pay the Negroes in the South enough money for their work to live "decently" according to Webster's definition. Then the Negroes can solve their own race problem and all these race problem solving organizations which have been bleeding the American public for so long can go take a long jump.

And, until this is done, the Negroes will always have plenty of nothing but economic problem.

FELTON D. MATHEWS.

Birmingham.

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937

The Family

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
June 26, 1937

Low Cost Diet Better in South, Survey Shows

The diet of a typical Southern working man's family spending more than $2.50 a person per week for food is more likely to provide the essentials of good nutrition than is the diet of a family spending the same amount for food in a North Atlantic industrial community, according to the United States Bureau of Home Economics report on food choices, costs, and nutrition of a cross section of industrial wage-earners' families of Birmingham, Mobile, Memphis, Richmond and New Orleans.

Food purchase records kept by 426 white and 284 Negro families in connection with the 1935-36 cost-of-living survey of the Department of Labor are part of 2,800 records, kept by families of wage-earners and low-salaried clerical workers in twenty-six cities of the North Atlantic, Pacific, and Southern regions.

Inadequate diets were encountered more in the South than in North Atlantic cities but the majority of white families were spending less per capita than were families in the North Atlantic region. Negroes were on an even lower expenditure level. Two-thirds of the Southern white, and over four-fifths of the Negro families were spending less than $2.50 per capita a week for food, as compared with slightly over one-third of the families in the other two regions included in the study. Families were classified according to what they spent per person per week for food. The average weekly per capita income of the Southern white families ranged from $3.40 for the lowest food expenditure group to $10 for the highest group. That of the Negroes ranged from $2.80 to $9.50 in both racial groups. Food took from 28 to 33 per cent of the total income.

WAGE DIFFERENTIALS NOT JUSTIFIED BY LIVING COSTS

Press release by the N.A.A.C.P.

12-10-37 New York

New York, Dec. 10.—The argument that the cost of living in the South is so low that lower wages can be scheduled in the pending wages and hours bill is not based upon facts, according to the N.A.A.C.P., which cites Department of Labor statistics to prove that it costs almost as much to live in the South as it does in the North.

In fact, the statistics cited by the N.A.A.C.P. indicate that in some southern cities it costs more to live than it does in Chicago.

The Association's objection to the favorite argument of those who want a wage differential inserted in the pending bill was contained in a letter to the New York Herald-Tribune on December 6.

"There is a widespread notion", the letter declares, "that a beneficent climate and other natural advantages permit southerners, both white and colored, to live an idyllic life at considerably less cost than persons living in other sections of the country.

"This myth is completely exploded by a recent study by the Department of Labor. This study reveals that the cost of rent, fuel and light is lower in the South but that clothing, house furnishing goods and other necessities are more expensive. There is little difference in the cost of food when the prices of commodities necessary to make up a minimum standard of living are compared. When all items are averaged, the startling revelation is made that the cost of living in many southern cities is considerably greater than in many northern cities. For example, the index of the cost of goods purchased by wage-earners and lower-salaried workers, as of September 15, shows that the average for all items in Chicago is 81.3, but in Atlanta the average is 83.9; in Baltimore, 88.2; in Jacksonville, 82.4; in Norfolk, 86.9; in Savannah, 83.3; in Memphis, 82.9; in Mobile, 85.1; in New Orleans, 85.2.

"The cost of living in these various southern cities differs very little from that of New York where the average is 86.7 and of Washington where the figure is 89.7, widely known as two of the highest priced cities in the United States.

"Even more startling are the figures for housing where even without central heating plants, gas or electric cooking ranges, the cost per room in Columbia, South Carolina, a small southern city, is about as high as centrally heated and electrically equipped projects in Chicago and Boston."

The letter states that there is a growing opinion in the South, contrary to the views of the politicians, that the South must have the benefit of differentials in order to exist. The letter asserts that differentials in favor of the South will mean not a difference in cost of living "but in lower standards of living which in turn mean higher morbidity, mortality and illiteracy rates, lower moral standards and other conditions detrimental to the South and to the country as a whole."

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937 The Family

Southern Village Income Studied

Telegraph

South Carolina and Georgia Data Is Published

4-28-37

By PAUL MAY

(Macon Telegraph Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27—Tabulations on a level of living study of 2,675 native white families in 15 Georgia and South Carolina villages showed an average 1935-36 income of $1,431 to cover the expenses of an average family of four persons, the department of agriculture announced today.

The report of the department of agriculture report states that forty per cent of the families had more than one earner.

Renting families greatly outnumbered home owning families in the Georgia and South Carolina villages, 1,276 families reporting as renters as against 901 as home owners.

The average rent paid by the Georgia and South Carolina villagers was $11 per month.

Sixteen per cent of the families in the Georgia and South Carolina villages had been on relief at some time during the year studied. Of the non-relief families, 59 per cent received less than $1,500 a year income.

The villages are: Georgia—Winder, Commerce, Greensboro, Jefferson, Comer, Madison, Social Circle, and Washington; South Carolina—Manning, Summerton, Lamar, Lake City, Timmonsville, Bishopville and Camden.

HALF INCOMES HERE ARE UNDER $1,814

Figure for Native White Families Is Contained in Report of Federal Survey

12-20-37

BELOW $1,000 FOR 24 P C.

Less Than $837 for 50 P C of Negro Households—Statistics on Villages Offered

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—One-half of the antive white families in New York City had incomes of less than $1,814 in 1935-36, Isador Lubin Commissioner of Labor Statistics reported today.

Families with incomes of less than $1,000 formed about 24.2 per cent of the city's population, he said, the total including families which received relief at some time duhing the period.

The statistics are from a nation-wide survey of urban consumer purchases conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a Works Progress Administration project, in cooperation with the National Resources Committee, the Central Statistical Board and the Bureau of Home Economics.

About 50 per cent of New York's Negro families had incomes below $837 for the year surveyed.

The average rent paid by non-relief white families was $42.60, absorbing about one-fifth of income, while the average rent paid by non-relief Negro families was $36.60, absorbing about 30 per cent of incomes.

Negro Rent Ratio Higher

"At all income levels from $500 to $3,000 Negroes paid a higher average rent than white families," the report continued. "Among both native white and Negro families having more than $500 income, families of business and professional groups spent more for rent than families of wage earners and clerical workers at the same income level."

The New York City reports dealt exclusively with native families in which the household contained both husband and wife. Families of this type make up about three-fourths of the native white families in the city and about two-thirds of the native Negro families, according to the report.

The income of more than one-third of the native white families in New York from which information was obtained came from wage earner occupations, one-fourth from clerical occupations and one-fifth from business and professional occupations.

The median income of families of wage earners was $1,721, while families of the independent professional group, which constituted the smallest occupational group, had the highest median income, $3,789. The report added that 22 per cent of the wage earner families received relief at some time during the year, as compared with 12 per cent for families of other occupations.

Home Ownership Rare

Home ownership was found relatively rare in New York as well as in Chicago and other large metropolitan centers. Among families not on relief, about one of five native white families and one of sixteen native Negro families owned their homes.

"The principal money income of 41.5 per cent of the native Negro families was derived from wage-earner occupations," the report declared. "Their median income was $1,266. Clerical, and business and professional occupations provided the chief source of income for about 14 per cent of these families. The highest median income, $1,984, was received by families of clerical workers.

"More than four-fifths of the income of native white families studied in New York was contributed by the chief breadwinner, who was the husband in approximately 92 per cent of the cases."

It was added that about one in six native white families had a supplementary earner and nearly one in four Negro families.

The Bureau of Home Economics of the Department of Agriculture made public the results of its study by cross-section method of 140 villages selected as representative of American village life.

This report showed that half of 22,644 native white families studied in the same one-year period covered by the New York City study were living on incomes of less than $1,100 annually

The highest median family income for non-relief white families was found in eighteen North Carolina and Mississippi villages, $1,764, and the lowest, $1,075, in nineteen Illinois and Iowa villages.

The highest median income for wage-earner families was found in the California villages, $1,449; the lowest, $872, in the fifteen Kansas and North Dakota villages. The highest median income for business and professional families was found in the eighteen North Carolina and Mississippi villages, $2,350; the lowest, $1,426, in the nineteen Illinois and Iowa villages.

The survey found that "home ownership versus renting is just about a toss-up in American village life."

Miami, Fla. Herald
December 24, 1937

Not So Bad By Comparison

THE "poor whites" of the South have long been the stock in trade of writers and playwrights.

The inference was always drawn that the villagers of other more favored sections of the country are better off in worldly goods and that poverty was the portion of the lowly white Southerner.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, Southern white villagers are better off than their neighbors to the North.

The department's estimates show that white Southern villagers handle an annual income of around $1,355. Not high, it is true, but higher than in New England, where it ran to $1,232, and in the Western livestock regions, where it amounts to $1,285, and $1,039 in the Central states.

Against this, however, should be noted that the typical income for negro families in the South was estimated at the pitiably low figure of $316. In contrast to the higher social status of whites, in the wheat belt where drought conditions have prevailed, whose income was estimated at $916, the variation loses some of its force.

Out of these various estimates the agricultural department arrives at approximately $1,100 as the annual income for the typical American village family.

Under the circumstances it is clear why young, ambitious ruralites steer their course to the cities. American village life evidently offers little for the spirit of youth that wants money and the things which it can buy

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937 The Family

South's Living Costs Low

The difference in the cost of fuel for the average worker's family in the South was 70 per cent less than for such a family in the East, according to a report issued by the National Industrial Conference Board covering the cost of living generally for a typical family of four. Telegraph

The board, which is regarded as one of the most accurate and impartial fact-gathering organizations in the United States, first began assembling data along the lines indicated in 1935 and since that time has kept its information up to date and has laid the foundation for important comparisons according to geographical divisions and density of population. 8-23-37

The information presented under the survey now before us throws a flood of light on the arguments against the Black-Connery bill to regulate hours and wages, which would set up a board of five members vested with power to strike down the advantage now enjoyed by the South in the cost of living. Macon Ga.

The arrogant little intermeddlers at Washington who think it is their destiny to make over the American way of life never seem to get around to the gross discrimination against the South in the matter of freight rates, which keep the industrial and agricultural activities of the South in bondage to the East. The levelling process for which they have such a passion when it comes to a redistribution of wealth does not extend so far as to enlist them in the cause of ironing out these inexcusable differentials in the cost of carrying our raw materials and finished products to market.

It is only because a worker can enjoy the same standard of living at less cost in the South than he could in the East that Southern industry has been able to keep its head above water.

But the Brain Trusters are tremendously interested in the passage of a wages-and-hours bill which would arbitrarily force wages to the level prevailing in the East and wipe out the natural advantages which in part set off the artificial advantage given the East in the matter of transportation costs.

The cost of fuel is, of course, only one tem in the cost of living and on that item he difference in the cost of living between he East and South is greatest, we freely dmit. But the figures compiled by the National Industrial Conference Board show that a worker in the South may enjoy the same standard of living at far less cost than he can in the East, with due account taken of every item—including the upkeep of the automobile.

The unit taken is that of a worker with a wife and two children. They live in a home of four and one-half rooms. They heat with coal, cook with gas and use electricity for lighting purposes. Under the item of "sundries" separate calculations are made where the upkeep of an automobile is included and where it is not.

The average amount of money necessary in March, 1937, as shown by a cross-section of 59 cities, to maintain a family of four according to the chosen standard of living was $28 a month, where the upkeep of an automobile was included and $26.47 a month where the automobile upkeep was not included.

Food costs amounted to 33 per cent of the family budget; rent, 20 per cent; clothing 11 per cent; fuel and light, 7 per cent, and sundries, including the cost of automobile upkeep, 29 per cent.

In order to determine the extent of the differences in living costs in the various sections of the United States the cities were grouped according to location into four geographic regions—East, South, West and Far West. The cities have also been arranged in four population groups.

The board reports that relatively less variation between cities was found in food prices than in the costs of several other major groups of expenditures. The principal explanation is said to lie in the fact that trade-marked or nationally advertised commodities differ but little in different sections of the country.

The survey shows that food prices are lowest in the Middle West and highest in the Far West, but the difference between the South and the Middle West on this item is only one half of one per cent, and while the Far West is at the top of the scale the East is still above the South by a good margin.

For reasons which have already been assigned, it is also true that the size of the city does not seem to make much difference in the cost of food, since there is a variation of only 1 per cent between the highest and lowest population group.

Rent, as we have seen, constitutes 20 per cent of the family budget. Rents vary to a considerable extent and seem to be directly correlated with the size of the city. The average rent in cities of 500,000 population and over was 21 per cent above the average for all cities. In cities with population between 250,000 and 500,000 the rent was the average for all cities. But in cities in the next group, that is to say, with a population between 100,000 and 250,000 rent was 4 per cent below the average, while cities in the group between 10,000 and 100,000 were 10 per cent below the average. The difference btweeen the highest and lowest population groups amounted to 34 per cent.

On a regional basis it is shown that the spread between the East and the South is 25 per cent.

The cost of clothing was greatest in the Far West but in the South the cost was represented by an index of 98.4 as against an index of 100.6 for the East.

We have already seen that the difference in the cost of fuel between the East and the South was 70 per cent.

In general, the living cost of wage earners tends to be highest in the larger cities and lowest in the smaller ones. In the South and the Middle West costs tend to be lower than in the East and the Far West.

It is thus established beyond question that a worker earning the same salary in one section or the other can live more cheaply in the South than he can in the East and the Far West and in many respects more cheaply than in the Middle West.

It is this natural advantage which the Black-Connery bill wishes to wipe out.

Mexican Marriages Declared Illegal

Plaque

LOS ANGELES, Aug. (ANP)—Mexican marriages of U. S. residents last week were declared "null and void", following expert testimony at the trial of the annulment suit of Cinemaman George Brent and Australian actress Constance Worth.

Charleston, S. C., Evening Post
October 14, 1937

LOCAL INCOME FIGURES GIVEN

Charleston Statistics in Report by Commerce Department

Approximately 42 per cent. of Charleston families, white and negro, have annual incomes not exceeding $499, it is indicated in one of a series of market research reports by the department of commerce.

Income scale for whites, however, is shown to be much advanced over the general average with families of incomes between $1,000 and $1,500 comprising the largest wage group.

Charleston was one of 16 cities in the United States surveyed in the current report—now filed with the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce here—and percentage of income groups is based on a canvass of 1,325 white and 1,287 negro homes.

Whites accounted for 50.7 per cent. of the statistics in the city-wide average. Families reporting were said to comprise 15.7 of the total population of the city on the basis of a complete retail property inventory covering 16,608 occupied units in 1934.

The report, as with others in the series, are available now at the commerce bureau, District Manager C. W. Martin said. There is a small charge.

In addition to income groupings, housing statistics are given and the city's economic status judged by consumption, by income groups, of commodities.

Five-tenths of one per cent. of the white families surveyed had incomes exceeding $15,000 a year. Another five-tenths of one per cent. received between $10,000 and $15,000 annually.

Other percentages:

No income, 1.4 per cent; up to $499, 12 per cent.; between $499 and $999, 21.9 per cent.; $999-$1,499, 22 per cent.; $1,499-$2,999, 15.1 per cent.; $2,999-$4,999, 7.6 per cent.; $4,999-$6,999, 2. 1 per cent.; $6,999-$9,999, four-tenths of one per cent.

The general groupings, white and negro, showed 2.5 per cent, with no income. The second largest income group was that between $499 and $999—19.5 per cent. Three-tenths of one per cent. reported incomes in excess of $15,000 a year.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
October 24, 1937

$970 or Less Was Annual Income Of Half Atlanta Families in '35-'36

Average Income for Native White Families Fixed at $1,690 by U. S. Commissioner of Labor Statistics; Salaries Vary Greatly From One Occupation to Another.

By GLADSTONE WILLIAMS.

WASHINGTON—Oct. 23.—One-half of all families in Atlanta received an income of $970 or less during the year 1935-36, United States Commissioner of Labor Statistics Lubin reported here today. This median income, he said, was for the composite population, including native white, foreign-born and negro families.

"Of the native white families in Atlanta, comprising both husband and wife," Lubin declared, "50 per cent received an income of $1,690 or more during the year. Of such families the number on relief, together with those having incomes of less than $1,000, formed 27.5 per cent, while 39 per cent had annual income of $2,000 or more. Excluding families which received relief during the year, the middle income for the native white families with both husband and wife was $1,880. Nearly one-third of the native white families in the city derived their incomes primarily from wage-earner occupations, while the principal money income of more than one-fourth of these families was obtained from clerical occupations.

Professional Group Highest.

"The median income among native white families not on relief varies considerably from one occupation to another. The middle income for families of wage earners who constituted one-third of the native white group, was $1,475. Independent professional families, on the other hand, made up only 2 per cent and had the highest median income, $3,170."

Fifty per cent of the Atlanta negro families with husband and wife, he said, received annual incomes of $550 or less. More than four out of every five had incomes of less than $1,000, including those who received relief. Only 5 per cent of the non-relief families had incomes of $2,000 or more. Excluding families which received relief during the year, the middle income for negro families with both husband and wife was $760.

"Approximately four-fifths of the income of white families in Atlanta," Lubin, who is also executive secretary of the government's central statistical committee as well as a member of the President's National Emergency Council, reported, "was contributed by the chief breadwinner, who —was the husband in about 90 per cent of the cases. On the average, one family in three had a supplementary earner, but these earners were more frequent in the upper income brackets than in the lower. For example, the average number of earners per family increased from 1.4 in the income group $750-$1,000 to 1.74 in the income group $4,000 to $5,000. These supplementary earners contributed on the average 12.8 per cent of total family income.

Other Income.

"Family income included not only the earnings of the chief breadwinner and other family members, but also income from other channels, including interest and dividends. Money income from such sources in the native white group amounted to 3.8 per cent of the total among business and professional families, and 2 per cent among wage-earner families. For negro business and professional families money income other than earnings constituted 6.2 per cent of total income but only 2.3 per cent among negro wage-earner families."

The report explained that of the families not on relief, approximately one-third of the native white and one-fourth of the negroes owned their own homes. The proportion of home ownership differed in the various occupational groups. Among the white families, 29 per cent of the wage earners, 32 per cent of the clerical workers, and 42 per cent of the business and professional families owned their homes. Even greater differences occurred among negro families where 19 per cent of the wage earners and 9 per cent of the business and professional families, as contrasted with 61 per cent of the clerical workers were home owners.

Average Rents.

The report also showed that the average rent paid by non-relief white families was $25.60, absorbing 14.2 per cent of their total income. The average rent paid by non-relief negro families was less than half that of the white families, $11.50 but represented a larger share of their income, amounting to 18.4 per cent. In both groups higher rents were paid as income increased. The higher rents, however, represented a smaller share of the income. Among both native white and negro families, business and professional families spent more for rent than wage earner and clerical families at the same income level.

"Size of family, as well as size of income, Lubin explained, "is an important criterion of economic welfare for it gives a general picture of the extent to which family income must be shared. Among both the white and negro families, the smaller income of the families which received relief had to be shared by a larger number of persons than the higher incomes of the non-relief families. White families which received relief averaged 4.6 members in contrast to the non-relief families which averaged 3.6 members. On the other hand, families which received relief among the negroes, whose income was considerably lower than that of the whites, averaged 4.3 members while the negro non-relief families averaged 3.7 members."

The data on Atlanta families was derived from a nationwide survey of urban consumer purchases conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, as a WPA project in cooperation with the national resources committee, the central statistical board and the Bureau of Home Economics.

Social Conditions, Improvement of -1937

The Family

Diets In The South

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
June 16, 1937

A Comparison Is Made Between The Working Man Here And In The North

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Food purchase records kept by 426 white and 284 negro families in connection with the 1935-36 cost-of-living survey of the Department of Labor are part of 2,800 records, kept by families of wage-earners and low-salaried clerical workers in 26 cities of the North Atlantic, Pacific, and Southern regions.

Inadequate diets were encountered more in the South than in North Atlantic cities but the majority of white families were spending less per capita than were families in the North Atlantic region. Negroes were on an even lower expenditure level. Two-thirds of the Southern white, and over-four-fifths of the negro families were spending less than $2.50 per capita a week for food, as compared with slightly over one-third of the families in the other two regions included in the study. The average weekly per capita expense for food of the whites ranged from $3.40 to $10 of the negroes from $2.80 to $9.50, and usually took from 28 to 33 per cent of the family income.

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Less Milk

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In the South, as in other regions, the nutritive value of the family diet increased directly with the amount spent for food. Over half the families spending around $2.80 per capita a week were on diets likely to promote good average health and efficiency. Less than one-tenth of those spending around $1.60 a week were on high-grade diets.

White families spending about $1.60 per person weekly averaged per person: 3 pints of fresh milk, 4 eggs, one-tenth of a pound of butter, about one pound of other fats, one and one-half pounds of sugar, one pound of bread and rolls, one-half pound of cereals, 2 pounds of flour and meal, almost 2 pounds of flour and meal, almost 2 pounds of potatoes, 2 pounds of other vegetables, one pound of tomatoes and citrus fruits, one and one-half pounds of other fruits.

White families spending around $2.80 per person a week bought over twice as much milk, butter and fruits, and almost twice as much meat, green, leafy, yellow and other vegetables, as did the families in the $1.60 group. They bought only slightly larger per capita quantities of grain products, sugars, and the cheaper fats.

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The Weekly Supply

The average person in the $2.50 group had a weekly supply of almost 4 quarts of fresh milk, 7 eggs, 1-4 pound of butter, 1 pound of other fats, 2 1-4 pounds of meat, poultry or fish, 1 3-4 pounds of sugar, syrup, jelly, etc., 1 2-5 pounds of bread and rolls, 1-2 pound of cereals, 2 pounds of flour and meal, 2 pounds of potatoes, 3 pounds of other vegetables, 2 pounds of tomatoes and citrus fruits, almost 3 pounds of other fruits.

Of the families which spent only 60 cents to $1.25 per capita a week about 8 per cent of the white and almost two-thirds of the negro families—the white families bought annually per person only 75 pints of fresh milk, five pounds of butter, 26 pounds of tomatoes and citrus fruits, 51 pounds of other fruits, 70 pounds of potatoes, and 134 pounds of other vegetables. Negroes averaged a yearly per capita supply of only 34 pints of fresh milk, 4 pounds of butter, 12 pounds of citrus fruit and tomatoes, 31 pounds of other fruits, 78 pounds of potatoes, and 88 pounds of vegetables.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
June 16, 1937

SOME INTERESTING FOOD FACTS

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Thus some interesting facts about the cost of the food we eat and the nutrition we get from it are being passed along for general information and edification:

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The average person in the $2.50 group had a weekly supply of almost four quarts of fresh milk, seven eggs, one-fourth pound of butter, one pound of other fats, two and one-fourth pounds of meat, poultry or fish, one and three-fourths pounds of sugar, syrup, jelly, etc., one and two-fifths pounds of bread and rolls, one-half pound of cereals, two pounds of flour and meal, two pounds of potatoes, three pounds of other vegetables, two pounds of tomatoes and citrus fruits, almost three pounds of other fruits.

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Anniston, Ala. Sta
July 3, 1937

Diet Of Southerners

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Miami, Fla., Herald
July 18, 1937

DIXIE WORKERS SET $12 WEEKLY

Voters In 13 States Answer Institute

By Institute of Public Opinion

NEW YORK, July 17.—Southern negroes, who by tradition dream of owning a mule, 40 acres and a stove-pipe hat, would be content in the meantime with $12 a week.

In an American Institute of Public Opinion survey, $12 is the average sum named by colored people in 13 Southern states as the amount a family of four must have to live decently.

"Boss, a nigger just got to have this much, 'cause everything done gone up in price," is the way a colored timber cutter in Stockton, Ala., puts it.

By contrast, white folk in the South name $25 a week as a minimum for a white family. The average for the nation is $30.

As everyone knows many a colored family in the South gets along on just a few dollars a year, raising its own food. Negro farmers polled by the institute name a much lower figure than those living in cities or towns. The average for farmers is $8 a week, as compared to $14 named by urban negroes and $12 by colored folk in Southern small towns.

The Southern negro's views on income are those of the lower end of the economic scale. For contrast the institute made a special tabulation of ballots received from the high-salaried upper crust of the white population in all sections—persons earning $15,000 a year or more.

The $15,000-a-year men name $40 a week as the amount necessary for a family of four. That is a little over $2,000 a year, or one-seventh as much as a $15,000 salary.

Typical of hundreds of comments from Southern negroes in the poll are the following:

Alabama farm hand who now earns $1.25 a day and thinks $10 is sufficient for a family: "If I was sho' of $10 I'd git 'long and send my chillun to school."

Colored women in Trenton, Tenn., who thinks $6 would be sufficient: "I lives on less than that but stay in debt most of the time. It takes that much to pay all the bills."

Charlotte, N. C., housewife: "I'd like $12 a week, but I'm extravagant."

Bartow, Fla., housewife: "Sixteen dollars a week is about right. This would include a small sum for the church and you can't be decent unless you contribute to the church."

Atlanta rags buyer: "Eighteen dollars is enough. A colored family can live cheaper than a white family. The rent ain't so much."

Dallas farmer: "I believe a family of negroes could live comfortably on $8 a week."

Miami, Fla. Herald
July 20, 1937

DO THEY GET IT?

WE LIKE to think that a $12 a week minimum wage in the South adds up to more than that because food is easier to get all the year, climate is more equable, clothing less in demand.

It would be nice if those things were wholly true, and the negro families expected to subsist on such a wage could maintain standards comparable to their Northern brethren. But unhappily, and to the shame of the South, it isn't so.

Twelve dollars a week will keep body and soul together in many a negro farm family. It will put some grits in the sack and pay for some clothing. But how many actually get $12 in cash per week? Their recompense for work comes usually in free rent for air-cooled cabins, in second-hand clothing, in free feed for the mule, seed and perhaps some fertilizer. If the head of the family works for a sawmill or a turpentine camp, he is paid in tokens, which he cashes at the camp commissary, and where also he is always in debt.

The weather may not be quite so bitter as in the North, the growing season may be longer in the South, firewood easier to get, perhaps. But however much these extras may figure in, the fact remains that the South presents in its common labor the most abject examples of poverty to be found anywhere.

There has been little federal interest in the particular problem of the negro laborer of the South, probably because he does not vote. Congressmen can work themselves into a lather over the plight of Western farmers who have a radio in every room of their two-story home, but precious little farm relief has been devoted to the tenant farmer or the laborer in the South.

Perhaps the next phase of the New Deal will take this up, and begin an investigation to learn if a majority of the negro families of the South actually get $12 a week on which to live, or whether that is just a wish passed on to the sociologists who have made tentative investigations of the subject.

Florida.

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937

Miami, Fla. Herald
February 2, 1937

40 GROUPS TO MOVE INTO LIBERTY SQUARE

That Number of Families To Occupy Premises This Week, Colonel Coe States

Forty vans are expected to carry the household goods and possessions of as many negro families from negro sections of ~~Miami~~ to Liberty Square, $1,000,000 low-rent housing project, on Saturday, Col. Clarence S. Coe, housing director, said yesterday.

Out of a first group of 20 selected as tenants, investigation of present living conditions and personal habits slowed up actual occupancy of the project planned for last Saturday, Colonel Coe said.

Yesterday Colonel Coe reported leases had been signed and the first week's rent accepted from 12 families. Eight additional families had qualified and were expected to sign leases.

Another group of 20 families is expected to qualify this week, he said.

Sears Roberts, 26, his wife and child were listed as the first family to sign a lease and are known as the project's first tenant. Roberts is a steel worker and has been employed by the Maule Industries for the last seven years.

Additional groups of tenants will move in as soon as they qualify, sign leases and pay their first week's rent.

Classifying the city's co-operation in the housing project as providing assurance that the project will be one of the finest in the nation, Colonel Coe commented:

"The city of Miami in handling the welfare and recreation plans under E. E. Seiler, city recreation director, will develop it into a negro civic center intended to be for the benefit of the entire negro population."

Miami, Fla. Herald
February 4, 1937

NEW LIBERTY SQUARE NOW HAS 26 FAMILIES

Col. Clarence S. Coe Says City Is Co-operating In Settlement of Center

Twenty-six negro families, the first to occupy quarters in the model negro housing settlement at Liberty Square, moved their belongings into their new homes yesterday. Col Clarence S. Coe, housing director, reported that 40 or more families would be among the initial occupants in the $1,000,000 housing project at N. W. Sixty-second street and Twelfth avenue, which was erected with federal funds at a cost of approximately $1,000,000.

With occupancy by the first tenant group, the project is automatically placed on a tenant operation basis.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger
March 4, 1937

Negro Dramatic And Recreation Program Tonight

The negro recreation institute and the dramatic institute will hold a final, joint session tonight at 8 o'clock at the Palace Casino.

Tonight's program will be featured by two one-act plays, "Common Clay," to be presented by the newly organized Little Theatre group, composed of Washington Park high school students; and "The Scandal Of The Five Women," by the Lakeland dramatic club.

The plays will be followed by a marionette show.

R. C. Oliver, state field supervisor of negro recreation, and Daisy Dimitry, negro dramatic supervisor, have been here for the past 10 days organizing the institutes.

The work started by the two supervisors will be continued with local sponsorship.

Pensacola, Fla. Journal
April 25, 1937

COLORED FOLKS OBSERVE BETTER HOMES PROGRAM

Clean-up Planned, Homes Will Be Open To Public; Club To Have Talks

Colored folks of Pensacola and Escambia county will take a part in Better Homes Week, according to announcement made last night. A definite program will be carried out through the entire week and all of the leading colored citizens are taking part.

Today all colored churches of the city are featurinf Better Homes as a method of living a better life and having a better influence on the young folks.

Monday and Tuesday will be observed as clean-up days in all colored homes. The campaign along this line will include interiors and exteriors and those in charge expect excellent results.

On Wednesday the nicer colored homes of the city will be thrown open to the colored public which has been invited to visit the homes and inspect them.

The Federation of Colored Women's clubs will have open house on Thursday at which time demonstrations and talks will be given by leaders in the various lines of home work.

The colored schools of the city will have open house on Friday when the parents have been invited to visit the schools and see the projects which have been worked out during the week.

On Saturday the WPA thrift house at 116 South Eighth avenue will be open to colored only at which time demonstrations will be held.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
June 19, 1937

Durkeeville Opens Today

Forty Negro Families to Form First Contingent.

Forty negro families, comprising the first contingent of tenants, will move into Durkeville, Jacksonville's million dollar low cost housing colony, today.

The announcement was made yesterday by A. H. Doty, management supervisor of the project, who said that with the exception of landscaping work the colony was entirely ready for occupancy.

More than 700 applicants are on file with the management of the Federal project, it was announced.

Apartments in Durkeeville are available as follows:

Forty-one two-room units at an average rental of $3 per week.

One hundred one three-room units at $3.82 per week.

Forty-nine four-room units at $4.17 per week.

Twenty-four five-room units at $4.49 per week.

The management official scouted rumors of unreasonable restrictions which he said had been circulated regarding the project.

Well ordered homes for desirable negro families, he explained, on a low cost basis is Durkeeville's main objective.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
October 14, 1937

HOUSING BOARD PREPARES TO PUSH SLUM WORK

Asks Mayor To Appoint New Body

The Tampa municipal housing board voted yesterday to ask Mayor Chancey to appoint a housing authority immediately so there may be no delay in the city's bid to the federal government for $1,500,000 slum clearance project for negroes in the "scrub" area.

The "authority" is a commission that would have power under the federal housing act and acts of the Florida legislature to clear an area of slum territory and replace it with low cost modern apartments. It would have authority to conduct all financial affairs without imposing any obligation on the city, county or any other political unit.

Submits New Plan

The board received a report from M. J. Mackler, chairman, who said one plan is available that will not require the city to put up any part of the cost. Under this plan, however, the government would not make annual contributions to help defray rent, as is being done for units partly supported by local funds.

"This thing is red hot; we must act quickly," Mackler said in presenting the different plans offered by the government.

Members of the authority would receive no pay. They would be prohibited from having any connection with the development itself. Mackler said he would be ineligible because he is a city employe.

It will be necessary for the board of aldermen to pass a resolution calling the mayors attention to the need before he may make the appointments.

The mayor had no comment when he told of the vote of the board except to say he will study the plan proposed before going ahead and appointing the authority.

The housing board, organized several years ago to carry on Tampa's fight for improvement of slum conditions, voted to remain intact despite appointment of an official slum clearance body and to assist the work whenever possible.

Board members present were Mackler, Rabbi David L. Zielonka, Dudley V. Haddock, secretary; Mrs. Mamie Sparkman Hart, Mrs. L. F. Genter, acting for Miss Allie Lee Rush; Mrs. Edna Hennessee, Mrs. Rose B. Holloway, Dr. James Holdstock, Cyrus T. Green, negro; the Rev. M. D. Potter, negro, and the Rev. W. M. Davis, negro.

St. Augustine, Fla., Record
October 14, 1937

Dr. Anderson's Many Gifts To City Recalled

Loyal Citizen Would Have Favored Restoration Program

The late Dr. Andrew Anderson, who was one of St. Augustine's greatest benefactors, and who undoubtedly would have been one of the best friends of today's Restoration Program, is responsible for so many of the beautiful things in St. Augustine today that it would be basest ingratitude to permit the memory of his many generous deeds for this community to languish.

Dr. Anderson's name has been associated with this Oldest City for many years. In fact we find in old records where he was mayor in 1887. Prior to that his father's name was prominent in the community.

Here are some of the benefactions which Dr. Anderson showered upon this community:

He was one of the leaders and one of the biggest contributors in the building of the present beautiful Flagler Hospital, also donor of the Anderson Nurses' Home at Flagler Hospital.

The handsome lions which guard the entrance to the Bridge of Lions.

The Memorial Pedestal and Flag

Staff in Anderson Circle on the Bay Front.

The statue of Ponce de Leon in Ponce de Leon Circle on the Bay Front. This is a replica of the Ponce de Leon statue in Puerto Rico.

The graceful marble statue in the Plaza, near St. George Street.

The Colored Welfare Center on Central Avenue.

In addition Dr. Anderson spent considerable money in clearing up the unsightly condition which existed at one time east of the Plaza, and creating the two circular parks known as Anderson Circle and Ponce de Leon Circle. He left a bequest, the annual income from which provides for the care of these parks.

Dr. Anderson's generosity, which consisted of other benefactions too numerous to mention, including his interest in Memorial Presbyterian Church, is being continued by his heirs, Mrs. John Dimick, and Andrew Anderson, who contribute generously to the upkeep of the Colored Welfare Center.

The late Miss Mary Smethurst, sister-in-law of Dr. Anderson, and aunt of Mrs. Dimick and Andrew Anderson, was a generous friend throughout her lifetime and, as a loyal citizen, she would have been an ardent supporter of the present Restoration program.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
November 1, 1937

Mayor Agee has appointed a committee of three to help improve conditions in the present negro slum area. The committee will be empowered to condemn buildings unfit for human habitation and to order repairs where needed. Since the city stockade is in the negro section, it would be a fine thing if the committee would call there first and find reason to condemn that building so that no other human—black or white—could be confined there.

Tampa, Fla., Tribune
October 31, 1937

Tampans Told To Continue Building Negro Rental Homes

Tampans who may be figuring on building houses to rent to negroes should not delay because of possibilities of the city getting a slum clearance program, M. J. Mackler, chairman of the Tampa slum clearance committee, said yesterday.

"While prospects for a government program are good, we do not yet know what we may be able to do," Mackler said. "We have been considering one for $1,500,000, but this would not begin to meet the great shortage of homes for negro residents."

"Negro homes have not been built in Tampa for many years. Meanwhile hundreds have been torn down and thousands of old homes and tenements are no longer fit for occupancy.

"Negro property always has been considered sound as an investment and the need of homes never has been greater than today."

Mackler's committee some time ago recommended that the city set up a housing authority and negotiate for a slum program. The board of aldermen Tuesday night called on the mayor to appoint a commission of five men to act as the authority. He said he expected to make the appointment this week.

Tampa, Fla., Tribune
December 2, 1937

COUNTY CHARITY BILL BIGGEST OUTSIDE CITY

Most of Beneficiaries Live in Country

The county spends a large amount of money for relief of distress within the city as well as outside, but the amount spent in Tampa is not in proportion to the large percentage of county taxes paid by property owners in Tampa, an inquiry yesterday revealed.

The question was raised by Mayor Chancey Tuesday in asking the Family Service association, already receiving $18,000 a year from the city, to seek some help from the county in meeting ever-increasing needs.

The mayor said the county, which gets most of its tax income from within the city, should carry more of the charity load in the city.

Seventy-four percent of county taxes comes from the city, it was figured in the office of the county commission.

Mothers' Pensions

Of a total of 148 mothers' pensions granted by the county, 71 are to city mothers, 77 to mothers in the county.

Of 251 persons in the county home and hospital, about 150 are from within the city.

Of 79 in the county tuberculosis sanitarium, 57 are from the city, 22 from outside.

Of 97 pensions to the blind, 49 go to persons in the city, 48 to persons outside.

Of 50 pensions to indigents, 18 are inside the city, 32 outside.

Most of the children cared for in the county detention home are from within the city.

A comparison of total funds to charitable purposes of the city and county show that they carry about equal burdens, which are tremendous despite the millions being spent on relief by the federal government.

The city budget includes about $220,000 this year for charity; the county, $217,000, but neither of these funds takes into consideration such relief as widows' exemptions, veterans' and other exemptions, free licenses and taxes waived on buildings occupied by government relief agencies.

City's Charity Budget

The city's charity budget includes $35,875 for such agencies as the Family Service association, Humane society, Children's home, Salvation Army, Tampa Day nursery, Old People's home, Tampa Urban league Negro Day nursery, Pine Heath home, Pla mission, Child Welfare Training center, and pauper burials. In addition, the care of charity patients in the city hospital will cost the city about $150,000 this year. Out of $65,000 in the budget of the city health department, it was estimated $35,000 goes strictly for charity.

The county has a budget of $179,000 for home and hospital, tuberculosis sanitarium, detention home, pauper allowances, for dependent children, pauper burials, hospital bills including payment for county patients in the city hospital; Children's home, Old People's home, Pine Heath home, Tampa Day nursery, Salvation Army Child Welfare Training center, Pla mission, rental of beds in state tuberculosis hospital, welfare administration, county health unit and pensions.

The figures indicate the people of Tampa and Hillsborough county pay $500,000 a year toward relief, not including money paid to match government WPA funds, for which they receive value received.

Miami, Fla., Herald
December 7, 1937

CLUBWOMEN REPORT NEGRO AREA HOUSES ARE HEALTH MENACE

Private Water Supply Is Found Unfit Even For Washing Clothes

L. K. MacReynolds, city public welfare director, was "astounded" to find a huge water tank in each of two houses having outward appearances of dwellings like others in the negro section, Mrs. T. V. Moore of the Miami Woman's club testified before the Miami Housing Authority yesterday.

The two water tanks, she explained, are parts of private water supply systems for two groups of houses "and is not even fit for use in washing clothes." The water she declared, "has a very bad taste and most people are afraid to use it."

Mrs. C. H. Reeder, representing Trinity Church Missionary society and the Woman's club, submitted a written brief illustrated with photographs of specific instances of overcrowded and insanitary living conditions in the negro area. The brief was indorsed also by the Miami Rotary club, Labor Citizenship committee, Miami Lions club, Miami Civitan club and Riverside Woman's club.

Removal of Houses Asked

Raymond J. Farrell, 629 S. W. Tenth street, presented a petition of 20 signatures asking removal of the negro area of seven houses between S. W. Tenth and Eleventh streets and Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Frances Levkoff, 236 N. E. Twenty-eighth street, proposed construction of 12-unit 2-story buildings in the negro area. Each unit would contain a kitchen, bedroom and shower and toilet, she said.

Mrs. Mary A. Leddy, representing the Riverside Woman's club, declared that garbage and trash, "collected after accumulating for days in the streets, is thrown on the trucks in such a way that it tumbles back into the streets." She asserted that "houses for which high rents are charged, are in a dilapidated and dangerous condition."

She cited an instance in which she said a negro man, attempting to throw a basin of slop water over a second floor porch railing, leaned against the railing, which gave way hurling him to the ground and injuring him so severely that he now is in a plaster cast at the hospital at city expense.

Meet In Executive Session

Harry Watts, member of the authority, commented that use of private water systems is "in self defense against high water rates."

Following the hearing of testimony the authority members met in executive session to discuss administration policies preliminary to the departure last night of Col. Clarence S. Coe, executive director, for Washington. Colonel Coe is scheduled to confer with Nathan Straus, newly appointed national housing administrator, in Washington.

A. N. Spence, representing the Civitan club, subscribed to the written brief and pointed out that a clean-up of the negro section "would not only help the negro population but make it safer for the population of the city as well."

The brief pointed out that the negro area comprises 389 acres, on which reside 27,000 negroes, or approximately one-fourth of the city's population.

The hearing was conducted in the office of A. W. Kneibler, authority chairman, 2163 N. W. Seventh avenue.

Social Conditions, Improvement of- 1937

Florida.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
December 8, 1937

Yesterday saw public sentiment generally crystalizing in favor of the big project which would clean out the slums of negro Methodist Town, provide 500 new housing units in the negro section, and give the city valuable park lands.

The day also found the council members themselves generally favoring some kind of a housing project, but divided on the matter of whether or not the grant offered by the government was too big for St. Petersburg to handle. Several councilmen frankly said they doubted the ability of the city to produce.

Thus the hitch in the plan seems to be the requirement that St. Petersburg guarantee 10 per cent or $175,000 of the estimated cost of the project. This may be made in cash, land contributions, or labor contributions. The entire amount does not have to be paid at one time, but may be made with the government allocations, a step at a time, it was learned yesterday.

Yesterday several proposals for raising the $175,000 were mentioned, including a gross sales tax, an excise tax on utilities, a bond issue, and an increase in the city millage. It was also suggested that the city could apply money already set up in the budget for federal projects to this job.

Surprised by Offer

Taken by surprise at the swift action obtained in Washington by Walter Ramseur, chairman of the recently-appointed local housing authority, the city fathers gathered in a conference with other members of the authority yesterday morning, then met with a group of representative citizens yesterday afternoon, seeking to determine public sentiment in the matter.

Ramseur went to Washington over the week-end, and accompanied by United States Senator Claude Pepper and Rep. J. Hardin Peterson conferred Monday with Nathan Straus, national administrator of the housing act. Monday afternoon the local housing chief announced federal authorities were willing to earmark between $1,500,000 and $1,750,000, provided the city would immediately pledge to put up 10 per cent of the federal grant.

Ramseur accompanied his announcement of the federal offer with a warning that if the city wished to take advantage of it, immediate action was essential. All funds to be allocated during the first year will be ear-marked this week, he declared, and cities declining to pledge their 10 per cent grants will be forced to wait another year, or perhaps indefinitely.

In a telephone conversation with E. B. Ellis, vice chairman of the local authority, yesterday afternoon, however, Ramseur pointed out the entire amount does not have to be available at once. The city may make its grants as the government allocations are made, a step at a time, Ramseur said.

Ramseur also dashed the hopes of councilmen who had urged the city accept a lesser grant, instead of the entire amount of the government offer.

He told Ellis the national administrator had approved a plan calling for the clearing of the north side negro district known as Methodist Town, and the erection of a 500-unit project elsewhere in the city, probably around Twenty-second street south. Such a plan would require the entire amount offered, he said.

If the city desired to obtain a smaller grant, a new plan would have to be drawn up by the local authority, and by the time that was done it would be too late to share in the first year's allocations, Ramseur declared.

Sentiment Favors Plan

Public sentiment, as expressed by representatives at the joint authority-council conference yesterday and in discussions on the street, apparently was solidly in favor of accepting the offer. Many of those discussing the matter informally cited the city's loss of a similar $400,000 project several years ago.

A tentative line-up of councilmen after yesterday's conference listed three as apparently in favor of pledging the city's share, with four seeming to feel that share would be too great.

Favoring were Councilmen Ian Boyer, Oliver William Hewitt and George W. Hopkins. More or less lukewarm over a $1,750,000 project were Mayor Vernon G. Agee and Councilmen Isham P. Byrom, Bainbridge Hayward and C. J. Maurer.

Labor Leaders Enthused

Meanwhile, as the council debated and Chairman Ramseur marked time in Washington, local labor leaders prepared to get behind a drive to get the project through.

Announcing the formation of a trade union committee to back the movement, Phil McMasters, president of the Central Labor union, urged support of the nearly two-million-dollar project.

Discussing the project yesterday afternoon at the conference, Oscar Gilbart, former president of the Chamber of Commerce and manager of the West Coast Title company, declared:

"If the money is available, it will be rather a pity if we don't get our full share of it. I fully realize it will all have to be paid back, but it will be quite a laudable thing to have that part of town cleared up."

He discussed the probable legal entanglements connected with condemning the property, and the possible revenue to be derived from the new housing unit.

List of citizens who gathered with the council and local authority to go over the matter yesterday afternoon, included John B. Green, R. J. McCutcheon Jr., Harry Playford, Al Lang, J. Hervey Mann Jr., Frank Harris, Walter McLeod, W. W. McEachern, Hubert Rutland, LaVerne Thomas, Gilbart, E. C. Watson, and Chauncey Brown.

A member of the special council housing advisory committee which recommended the appointment of the local authority to seek the grant, Brown told the officials, "I admit the amount is in excess of what the advisory committee figured at the time, but I think we should consider it carefully. The money is there, and if we can possibly do it, I think we should take advantage of the opportunity."

Brown said the housing advisory group had considered $600,000 as a possible project cost.

"I'm opposed to the present tremendous expenditures, but if they're cutting melons we might as well get a slice," Al Lang, former mayor, declared. "I tell you, if I was a member of the commission there would be some condemnations taking place within the next year."

W. W. McEachern, president of the Union Trust company, told the council and authority, "I think the clearing of Methodist Town would be a good thing, but I have serious doubts as to whether a 500-unit project would pay."

'Looks Good,' Rutland Says

Pointing out that the clearing of Methodist Town had been discussed for years, Hubert Rutland declared:

"If we're going to get that place cleared we're going to have to pay for it. It appears that we now have a chance to clean it out with a minimum expenditure. It looks to me like a good proposition."

Harris suggested a possible means of levying the required money lay in the levying of a local gross sales tax.

"However, I think it's too big a proposition to decide too hastily," he added. "I think we ought to get 25 or so of the biggest taxpayers together and ask their opinion on it."

Chamber of Commerce President Thomas heartily approved the project.

"I think this is a project which ought to have every consideration you gentlemen can give," he declared. "None of us wants more taxes, certainly. However, it will have a good effect on business locally, and I am inclined to believe with increased business and restored confidence our increased tax collections will have a great deal to do with carrying the project."

McLeod Says Public Favors Plan

McLeod predicted a 100 per cent backing of the plan by local citizens.

"I don't believe that clearing will ever be done except by fixing something more desirable," he declared. "I believe it quite likely the money can be spread out over a period of years, and if it is worked out that way I believe the citizenry will back you 100 per cent."

"It seems to me like that amount might be too large," McCutcheon pointed out. "Maybe we ought to take a smaller amount that we could handle better."

Silent during most of the afternoon session, City Manager Glenn V. Leland arose just as Councilman Byrom's motion to adjourn carried, to deliver a warning.

"Please bear in mind that any amount provided must come out of additional taxation," he told councilmen and authority members. "Mr. Hopkins is a little optimistic."

He referred to previous statements by Councilman George W. Hopkins to the effect that heavy additional taxation would not be needed.

According to a comparative tax statement, hastily prepared by Phil Lang, tax assessor, an additional 3.5-mill levy would have to be made to raise the entire $175,000.

Councilmen Air Views

Councilmen aired their views freely on the matter at the first conference yesterday morning with members of the housing authority. Mayor Agee called the meeting immediately after learning of the government action via telegram from Ramseur.

"I tell you gentlemen frankly, so far as I am personally concerned, I don't see how it will be possible for the city to raise the money," the mayor declared.

Councilman Hopkins suggested the money for the city's share might be raised through the levy of an excise tax on public utilities.

"That $175,000 seems like a lot of money, but I think we can get it if we go after it," he declared. "It's a step forward for the city, and I think we ought to make every effort to stand back of the committee."

Boyer Challenges Manager

Manager Leland pointed out that to raise the money, even in next year's budget, would require an increase of 25 per cent in taxation. He was challenged immediately by Councilman Boyer.

Pointing to the $77,000 set up in the budget for federal project activities, Boyer declared:

"Don't get the idea it would mean a 25 per cent increase in taxation, because it wouldn't."

"Could you set up $40,000 for the project right away?" he asked Leland.

"It wouldn't be impossible," the city manager replied .

"There's your nucleus for the contribution," Boyer pointed out. He suggested also the use of project money.

"Yes, but would you stop all other work to build these negro houses out there?" Leland wanted to know.

"Your W. P. A. is washed out," Boyer declared.

"Yes, but the airport project is still set up on a three-year basis," Leland pointed out.

Maurer Wants Cash Basis

Judge Maurer declined to render a snap judgment, but urged that the city adopt a "pay as you go" policy, or be faced with "irretrievable bankruptcy."

Bainbridge Hayward expressed agreement with Judge Maurer. Although in accord with the idea of the project, he had declared $300,000 should be the limit. "The taxpayers are taxed to the limit already," he declared.

"The thing for us to do is sit down and use our heads about this thing," Councilman Hewitt told his colleagues. "I think everybody in town wants the project, and the only question is how

to get the necessary money. I'm sure we can figure out a way to do that."

"Without a doubt, the clearance of Methodist town slums is the most important thing the city could undertake," Boyer pointed out.

"Does that mean you're seriously considering accepting the entire amount?" Hayward inquired.

"Absolutely," Boyer replied.

Miami, Fla. Herald
December 15, 1937

The Voice of the People

Editor The Herald: The slums of Miami have been getting a great deal of publicity lately. The negro section received all the attention until someone discovered (to his great surprise) that there were also white people living in squalid surroundings in our great city. One of the big issues of the New Deal is Better Housing and many of the public spirited people of Miami are taking up the cause in an inspired effort to help the downtrodden. Or so we hope. Housing conditions all over the country have been bad for years and it is high time to do something about it. Unfortunately there is a national tendency to mistake effect for cause and attack such problems hind-end-foremost. Like treating measles with a coat of whitewash.

Even in good times there is a large group of poor people in this country, and the main characteristic of poor people is a chronic lack of money. It may be due to stupidity, improvidence or plain bad luck, but whatever the cause they still need shelter at a price they can pay. If they pay at all.

The target of attacks on bad housing conditions is invariably the owner of the property. Occasionally he is a rogue who bleeds his tenants for rent on dilapidated unsanitary hovels. Sometimes he is an absentee landlord who leaves his business in the hands of inefficient or unscrupulous managers. Usually he is an ethical business man trying honestly to make a profit in a difficult business, even as you and I. He has many troubles. Tenants of the low or nonincome groups are notoriously bad risks as well as shiftless, dirty and destructive. The owner must build according to expected costs, losses and income. His losses in depreciation, breakage and arrears are high. He has heavy city, state and federal taxes to meet whether he makes a profit or not. As low-cost housing has commonly been given a shady reputation he is a profitable football for the politicians to kick around. He receives much more interference than help from the city officials and has to take the blame for their mismanagement.

To take Miami's colored town in particular: The city has segregated over 35,000 negroes in an area too small to house half that many comfortably. It has no plan for building development so the landlords are blamed both for the overcrowding and for the lack of buildings. It taxes colored property out of all proportion to its value and then blames the owners for wanting to put more houses on a lot to insure adequate income as well as reduce the congestion of people per room. It does not enforce building and sanitary codes or provide proper garbage disposal and then holds the owner responsible for the results. It provides insufficient slipshod policing for colored town and then the owners are denounced for the morals and behavior of the section. Whatever the ills may be they are either caused or permitted by the city itself. They are due to the lack of a clear-cut practical municipal program for the development and regulation of the section.

The profits on colored property are commonly supposed to be immense. Actually it takes careful management and much hard work to make a fair return on investment. The greatest loss is in back rent, most of which is uncollectible. In effect the owners are giving thousands of dollars of free rent every year. It is safe to say that no one else has contributed a fraction as much toward housing the city's poor. In many cases they are kept on rent free month after month rather than turn them out of their homes. In other cases they are allowed to pay their arrears in small sums.

In spite of what is said and written, model housing does not help the very poor. The writer knows of an instance in New York where slums were cleared and model tenements built. These were filled with grateful artists, actors and writers while the dispossessed slum dwellers went into the already jammed slums of Brooklyn, Jersey City and Newark. They had no other place to go. Miami has Liberty Square, built at a cost of a million and a half dollars to house 250 families at $6 per month per room. There are approximately 7,000 negro families here, counting five per family. At that rate it would cost forty-two millions of dollars to similarly house Miami's negroes. But the Liberty Square tenants are carefully selected for character and ability to pay. What about the rest? The average negro family has difficulty paying $10 per month for a house, which is the usual colored town rental. What provision would be made for the lowest income groups?

The uplifters are off on the wrong foot. There are only three absolute solutions to the slum problem. (1) Abolish poverty. (2) Abolish the slums and send the poor out to sleep in the fields. (3) House all the poor in government barracks at the taxpayers' expense. In the meantime the best thing to do is to see that the municipality co-operates with the owners of poor section property in planning to provide the economically under-privileged with decent housing at the lowest rent which will yield a reasonable profit to the owners. In the final analysis the responsibility lies with the city government, and that depends on the voters. Making scapegoats of a few property owners has no effect on the causes of the condition.

AROUET, jr.

A Slam at Bliss

Editor The Herald: It is an insul o the memory of the late Arthu Brisbane to have a ranting non-en ity fill the space formerly allotte to that great journalist. Scratch a "Babbling Bliss" booster and you be hold a reactionary Republican.

GEORGE SANDERSON,
775 N. E. 78th St.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

Florida.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
October 14, 1937

THE COMMUNITY CHEST

Within a short time the people of Jacksonville will be asked to indicate their intention regarding the filling of the Community Chest; an institution well understood and generally approved of by the citizens. The Community Chest, established to handle funds contributed for the use of a score or more of the city's organizations, is not a seasonal undertaking—it functions the year around, and is generally admitted to be the best plan for securing, managing and distributing money which the people hand over to it for helping the helpless or needy and organizations set up for the benefit of the health and happiness of the people.

Once a year, however, there is undertaken "the filling of the chest," by which is meant raising through voluntary subscription, an amount which has been estimated as sufficient to give a certain amount of help to the several member agencies. These "agencies" are today listed as: The American Red Cross, The A. R. C. Life Saving Corps, Association of Day Nurseries, Boy Scouts, Boy's Home Association, Children's Home Society, Clara White mission, Council Social agencies, Daniel Memorial home, Elizabeth Edgar home, Emergency Bureau, Girl Scouts, Home for the Aged, Hope Haven, Jewish Welfare Society, League—Hard of Hearing, Legal Aid Association, Negro Welfare League, Old Folks Home, St. Luke's Hospital, Salvation Army, Travellers' Aid Society and the Y. W. C. A.

All these agencies and organizations are well known to the people; they are worthy and it might be said, even necessary; and they cannot exist without financial assistance. Distribution of this money; raised by subscription in the city and from no other source; is made systematically and as deemed best by the Chest officials who understand just what can be given each one of the several agencies listed. The Chest management is always well known; dependable and does not waste nor misuse the money in their charge. The estimates of the needs and the assignment of help are fairly made up, and those who contribute their mite to the Chest are assured that every dollar is well spent.

It is a good idea to think about the coming call for filling the Community Chest. Some people always try not to think of anything which would mean their paying out of money; or promising to pay; but it is well to remember and at least about this time of the year give a thought to the needs of the many institutions and agencies and organizations which are expecting Jacksonville to help them. The Community Chest has long been accepted as the very best way of handling the problem which most of these agencies face.

It is not so long since every business man and every family was subjected to calls, repeatedly, for aid. "Drives" were held so often that the people were annoyed by the repeated demands made for help. The Community Chest does away with these things; and the citizen is able to subscribe at one time for the aid of all worthy objectives, and be certain that his charity is appreciated and is well used. The Community Chest must soon be filled. Give the matter a little thought; you may wish to investigate the situation and be convinced that the Chest must continue its humanitarian work.

Tampa, Fla., Times
October 27, 1937

Mayor Expected to Name Housing Authority Soon

Slum clearance work in Tampa was a step nearer realization today following adoption by the Board of Representatives of a resolution calling on Mayor Chancey to appoint a housing authority to petition the Federal Government for a $1,500,000 project here.

The Mayor is expected to appoint the five-member commission at once to assure prompt application for the program. The body will have complete authority in contracting for and supervising the work.

The resolution adopted by the Board last night cited the existence of "insanitary and unsafe inhabited dwelling accommodations" in the City, a shortage of safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations available to families of low income at rentals they can afford," and the need for a Housing Authority.

It prohibits the Authority from creating any indebtedness for the City.

The resolution was adopted upon recommendation of the Municipal Housing Board and in order to comply with State law. The commission is being created in accordance with provisions of the Wagner-Seagall Slum Clearance Act.

Maj. M. J. Mackler, chairman of the Housing Board, appeared before the Board and urged immediate action. He said only $560,000,000 had been appropriated for slum clearance throughout the country and asserted numerous cities already had applied for projects.

"Bread Line."

"There's a bread line in Washington, and we're not in it," he asserted. "We're here holding our hands. We have to act quickly if we are to get this program for Tampa."

Representative Rosenthal said he was in favor of the resolution, but suggested that the Authority be made "subservient" to the Board in some way. City Attorney McMullen said that could not be done.

Persons appointed to the Housing Authority must not be connected with the City or the Federal Government in any way, it was pointed out.

Representative Watson said he wanted some of the white slums cleared out, instead of the Negro scrub section as considered by the Housing Board. Major Mackler assured him the Authority would investigate thoroughly before deciding on clearance in any section.

Under a plan offered by the Government, the slum clearance project can be obtained with no cost to the City. The Government would lend 100 percent of the money, to be repaid over a period of 60 years from income from rents.

The Authority would be empowered to buy, sell or condemn properties wanted for the project.

Major Mackler said today persons having matters to discuss with the Housing Board should postpone them pending appointment of the Authority, which would be empowered to act. The Authority would take up appraisal of property and other matters dealing with slum clearance, he added.

General

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

PWA Housing Projects Up In 14 States

Rents Average $5.75 Per Room Per Month Director Says

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Rents set for 17 PWA slum clearance and low-rent housing projects to date average $5.37 per room per month, Howard A. Gray, director of Housing, reported to Public Works Administrator Harold L. Ickes.

Projects on which rents have been established are located in 14 States, Mr. Gray pointed out. In type they range from a row-house community in Miami to a huge apartment project in Cleveland, O.; in size from a 100-unit project in Montgomery, Alabama, to the big 574-apartment Harlem River Houses in New York City.

The 17 projects comprise all those on which rents have been set thus far, Mr. Gray reported. Our projects on PWA's slum clearance and low-rent housing program are still in construction stages and have not reached the point for rents to be fixed.

Rents on all projects fixed to date have conformed to the requirement that each project pay its full operating expenses and return to the Government 55 percent of its total cost, Mr. Gray pointed out. In addition, he reported, rents are all within the reach of low-income families who previously were living under bad housing conditions.

In addition to receiving the benefits of low rents, tenants of PWA slum clearance and low-rent housing project are able to obtain utility services at low cost. Through wholesale handling of heat, light, power for cooking and refrigeration, hot and cold water in the projects, each tenant obtains all these services for an average cost of $1.83 per room per month.

"Dwelling rent on all PWA housing projects to date is staying well within low-income range limits," Mr. Gray reported to Administrator Ickes.

"Analysis of the rents fixed thus far in the program show that the average cost to tenants is $5.37 per room permonth. All tenants now living in PWA housing projects formerly were forced to live under the most adverse housing conditions. They have been moved from slum conditions and placed in substantial, carefully designed housing, where their rent is not substantially greater than what they paid before.

"PWA housing projects therefore are fulfilling the two purposes they were designed to meet—they are clearing slums, removing families from slum living conditions, and offering good housing at rents which may definitely be classed as low under existing conditions and legislation. A greater amount of subsidy will permit ever lower rents."

Of the 51 housing projects undertaken by PWA in the nation's first housing program, 27 directly replace slum areas. This includes the huge Williamsburg Houses project in New York City, which removed 12 square blocks of slums in Brooklyn, and is the largest project of its kind ever undertaken in this country.

Typical dwelling rents cited by Mr. Gray, in his report to Administrator Ickes were: Techwood Homes, Atlanta, $5.52 per room per month; University Homes, Atlanta, $5.11; Meeting Street Manor and Cooper River Court, Charleston, South Carolina, $4.93; University Terrace, Columbia, South Carolina, $4.73; Stanley S. Holmes Village, Atlantic City, New Jersey $5.51; Lockefield Garden Apartments, Indianapolis, Indiana, $4.92; Cedar Central Apartments, Cleveland, Ohio, $5.71; Outhwaite Homes Cleveland, $4.78; Durkeeville, Jacksonville, Florida, $4.24; William B. Patterson Courts, Montgomery Alabama, $3.97; Liberty Square Miami, $4.99; Harlem River Houses New York, $7.10; Fairfield Court Stamford, Conecticut, $5.82.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
October 14, 1937

Cant and Sham

Southern negroes able to pay a rental of $17 a month are negro "aristocrats". Southern white people who can pay $24.50 or $27 a month are not rescued from slums. Why the sham and cant about houses for the "lowest income groups"?

HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION

The National Roadside Council of New York, an organization seeking to increase the beauty of the highways of the nation, makes valuable suggestions for the elimination of unsightly advertising signs from the roads of Georgia in a letter addressed to the Brooks County Chamber of Commerce.

A movement launched by the Brooks county organization has as one of its chief objectives the beautification of the highways. Recent editorial comment in The Constitution brought the attention of the National Council to this campaign.

As pointed out in the council communication, mere removal of advertising signs from the rights-of-way is of only small benefit, because it results only in the moving back of the signs a few feet into private property.

A number of states have laws which require a state permit before such a sign can be erected, with varying fees for such permits. In Massachusetts, for instance, there is a minimum permit fee of $4 and signs must be set back at least 50 feet from the highway and, in some cases, 300 feet, the distance depending upon the size of the sign.

A similar law in Georgia would result in immeasureable improvement in the scenic attractiveness of the state and, now that the state highway patrol is organized and in service, the law could be enforced without undue difficulty.

THE SOUTH TODAY

Our Southern Slums

By W. J. CASH

(Copyright, 1937, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note: W. J. Cash, born in Gaffney, S. C., has worked on newspapers in Chicago and Cincinnati, edited a semi-weekly sheet and served on the staffs of the Charlotte News and other North Carolina papers. Mr. Cash is now a regular contributor to prominent natoinal magazines and periodicals.

W. J. CASH

The leading citizen looked at me with bulging eyes and from pursy lips quoted me Conrad, anent "that modern disease of humanitarianism, which is only a kind of craziness of the nerves." That, he said, smoothing his well-larded belly authoritatively—that was the whole trouble with the campaign against slums which the Charlotte News and its Cameron Shipp were waging in the Tar Heel metropolis along last spring and all the other campaigns in other Southern cities since.

What if "30,000 Negroes and nobody knows how many whites" of Charlotte did live in such conditions that the mere bald recital of them provoked the reader to nausea? What if the same or worse were true in Memphis, in Atlanta, in Norfolk, in Birmingham, in Jackson, in Louisville, and a thousand towns besides? The answer was simple—the slum dwellers were shiftless white trash and a black race that in all candor had better have been left in slavery. They got only what they roundly deserved, and what was more to the point, the situation was quite incurable. The slum-dwellers gravitated to their own level, and not all the king's horses could raise them permanently above it. Give them mansions and they'd turn them into hog pens in three months. Dammit, hadn't the thing been tried over and over, and always with the same result?

I began to demur, and he shifted his ground.

"Yes, I know. I'm an individualist out of exploded Adam Smith, a simpleton who believes that every man makes his own economic fate. Suppose I'm wrong. Suppose these people I call shiftless trash have been made that way mainly by the play of historic circumstances—so what? That is only to say that to get rid of slums we've got to raise the slum-dwellers to a self-respecting level—to put it bluntly, they must have better pay. So far as that goes, I'm in favor of it. I'm no sweater. But—its impossible. In a hundred years, in 50 years maybe. But now—no.

* * *

The Wage Problem

Hang it, man, the South is a poor country, with its economy inescapably geared to cheap labor because its great basic commodity, cotton, is sold in a world market which we cannot control. So long as the price of cotton is fixed by economies on a lower level than that of the United States, wages in the South must remain low. You can't raise town wages without also raising agricultural wages. And when you go to monkeying with agricultural wages—why, you'll simply ruin the South. So, far from improving the status of these slum-dwellers, you'll leave them worse off than ever."

I looked at him in silence. I knew there was more or less of truth in what he said. But the real estate man in Charlotte had told Shipp that the slum-owners average 20 per cent annual profit on their property, and so I suspected that there was considerable room for improvement of the housing of these people even within the existing frame. However, I did not believe that really adequate housing could be supplied by the slum-owners. I had little faith, either, in the miracle-working powers, of the federal government. On the contrary, I was convinced that he was right in saying that the problem was integrrally bound up with that of wages. And when it came to wages, I knew how much to the point he had argued.

Nevertheless, I thought he was dismissing the problem much too easily and complacently, and that his prideful commonsense and tough-minded realism were more than a little questionable. For it is the test of any true realism that it takes all the facts into account. And it was plain to me that, like most of the well-kept people I have heard dismissing the slum agitation as sentimental humanitarianism, he was blinking a body of facts which lies at the core of the question, and which has nothing to do with sentimental humanitarianism but only wtih the self-interest of white men who belong to the upper classes.

* * *

Health Endangered

Through the window I could see his little granddaughter playing on the lawn under the eye of a black nursemaid. She was, I knew, the thing in the world he valued most. But, looking at her, I was reminded grimly of what a health officer in Charlotte told me 15 years ago, what I have heard from many health officers since, what Dr. H. M. Rea, the present health officer at Charlotte, told Shipp — that, by the inexorable evidence of carefully compiled data, it is precisely in these slums that colitis, that disease which takes such a toll among children of two of three years, breeds—that here it is that it finds easy entrance and easy flourishing. And—that it passes out of here into the homes of the more fortunate with the servants who pour out of the slums to serve them. How much closer to early death was the little girl on the lawn because of the presence of the slums

But it is not only colitis, of course, which the health officers report as breeding here and passing out from here, but tuberculosis, syphilis, gonorrhea, diphtheria, typhoid and scarlet fever. Look at the map of any Southern town and you'll observe that these slums form rings around every high-class residential district. Rings of squalor and filth about cores of comfort and celanliness. Rings of death. How many thousands of upper class whites pay every year with their lives, with crippling sickness, with their tears for the dead or the blighted, for the presence of these slums?

There is more. According to the federal bureau of investigation Charlotte in 1936 had 55 murders and cases of non-negligent man-slaughter, one-fourth as many as Chicago, and nearly one-sixth as many as New York City. Atlanta had 118, Memphis 56, New Orleans 89, Nashville 53, Dallas 105, Richmond 39, Birmingham 70. And the composite rate for all Southern towns with more than 10,000 people was more than 18 per 100,000, as compared with 1.02 per 100,000 in all such towns in the New England States. And as compared with six per 100,000 in all such towns in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast states, the next most murderous section of the country after the South. What is more, the figures for all the other crimes of violence—aggravated assault, rape, robbery—as well as those for burglary and larceny, show much the same proportion.

Heavy Crime Cost

Do you suppose there is no correlation between these facts and the presence of the slums? Police Chief Littlejohn at Charlotte, had no doubt about it. He was emphatic in telling Shipp that the appalling crime rate there was much less due to any "innate criminality" on the part of the black race and the poor white trash than to the interaction of slum crowding, poverty, and the hopelessness on perfectly normal human impulses. And his position is perfectly borne out by reports from the more intelligent sort of police officers in Atlanta, New Orleans and Memphis.

There is no space here to discuss the implications of all this, and so I content myself with posing a single question—in the field of the always touchy question of economics. How many millions of dollars do you suppose all this crime costs the Southern cities each year? And when the crime cost is added to the loss from death and disease, what do you suppose is the grand total of our annual Southern bill for slum maintenance?

Sentimental humanitarianism? You can be as Nietzschean as you like. You can believe that the black man deserves nothing but the whip, and that poor whites would be better off if they were asphyxiated. And if you are a white man of the upper orders in the South, the problem of the slums will still thrust upon you with pressing insistence—will bear upon your own interest so pointedly that only the foolhardy will dismiss the matter as beyond solution until every resource of human ingenuity has first been tried.

Social Conditions, Improvement of-1937 General

URBAN LEAGUE FIELD DIRECTOR REVIEWS FLOOD ZONE ACTION

By JESSIE O. THOMAS

In compliance with instructions from the Executive Secretary of the National Urban League we began, Friday, March 5, to make investigations concerning the manner in which Negro refugees had been handled in the concentration camps and given relief by the local units of the American Red Cross.

In Memphis we conferred with the head of the Social Service Department, Mrs. Thaine; head of the American Red Cross; the head of the Nurse Training Division, Mrs. Peterson; the head of the Medical Unit, Dr. Lombard; and the Regional Director, Mr. Myles.

Among the questions raised in conference with these officials were:

What percentage of the refugees handled in that particular area was white? What percentage Negro?

What percentage of the present case load was white? What percentage Negro?

How many white case workers employed? How many Negro?

How many white clerical workers employed? How many Negro?

What type of local organization had been set up through which the local citizens cooperated unofficially with the Red Cross organization?

To what extent was colored leadership utilized?

What percentages of the refugees were sharecroppers, tenants, and what percentage were home owners and land owners?

What percentage of the refugees had been returned to their homes? What percentage had refused to return?

The reasons given by those who expressed a desire not to return to the plantations from which they came?

The policy of the Red Cross with reference to persons who did not desire to return?

The method to be employed by the Red Cross is disseminating the information to refugees as to the policy to be pursed in its program of rehabilitation?

In addition to the above persons interviewed, we conferred with Negro physicians, executives of insurance companies, representatives of the Negro press, the Executive Secretary of Negro Welfare League, teachers in the public school system, nurses, Prof. O'Brien, head of the Department of Sociology at LeMoyne College and seven of his students who had been employed as case workers and visitors by the Red Cross.

The total number of social workers in Memphis was 49—34 whites and 15 colored. The colored were employed as result of a recommendation from the National Urban League.

We found in Memphis and Marian, Arkansas, the county seat of Crittendon, that during the emergency period relief was administered on the basis of need without regard to race. We discovered no evidence of discrimination in the matter of giving relief. We did find that a differential wage scale had been adopted in employing Negro and white nurses. The former were paid $3.50 and the latter $5.00 a day. Our investigation revealed further that in spite of the fact that some seventy clerical workers were employed, none of these were Negroes. The salary schedule for social workers ranged from $60 to $90. Our information would indicate that while the letter of the law was complied with, the spirit of the law was violated So far as we could learn, all Negroes, except one, received the minimum wage of $60. All white workers but one received above the minimum wage.

The Negro workers had had better training in field work under the auspices of the family welfare society. They were, therefore, more competent than the white workers. In evidence of this fact, Negro case workers were used in preference to white to investigate white clients.

Negro leadership was not utilized as a part of the Rehabilitation Administrative Committee.

In Crittendon County, which is the second richest county in the state of Arkansas and which at the same time has the largest number of Negro illiterates of any county in the state (Of the 60-102 Negro illiterates in the 74 counties in the state, 3,822 are in Crittendon County) Marian, Arkansas was relief headquarters of the Red Cross. There are some 2,460 families in this county. Only 96 of them were listed as land owners, Ninety five per cent of the tenants and sharecroppers were Negroes. No Negro social workers, interviewers or investigators were used in this county. No Negro nurses or physicians were employed. A number of refugees returned home before having been given complete inoculations against Typhoid and Malaria. A few had been given two shots; most of them had received only one shot. The great need was public health nurses to disseminate health information in the use of water and in the use of land for gardens. Most of the land was flooded. Residues from service toilets, live stock stables and barns polluted the water.

The great need in this whole section is public health nurses in order to minimize the health hazard.

THE EARMARKS OF THE NEGRO COMMUNITY

(By Prof. I. B. Bryant, Instructor of Social Science, Houston College for Negroes and Instructor of Wheatley High School, Guest Editor.)

Down through the years the Negro sections of our cities have developed characteristics which label them as Negro communities. Any attempt to show why the Negro community has adopted definite characteristics is a matter of conjecture, and is therefore, purposely avoided. However, there are those who claim that the deplorable conditions under which the Negro lives are due to a multiplicity of direct and contributory factors, chief of which is the "laissez faire" attitude assumed by the municipal fathers in regard to the Negro community, and the seeming lack of community pride exemplified by the Negro himself. Whatever the causes are, we know the conditions and the far reaching results.

Some of the earmarks of the Negro community are: (1) unpaved and poorly kept streets; (2) inadequate lighting; (3) poor drainage and sewerage; (4) inadequate police and fire protection; (5) dilapidated houses, schools, and churches; (6) poor transportation; and (7) lack of municipal parks. One can invariably identify the entrance to the Negro community, as it is here that the pavement, sewers, and sidewalks generally terminate, and the gravel, shell, or plain dirt road begins. With the exception of a few through streets, any attempt to keep these streets passable is entirely out of the question. In the rainy season the entire community is water bound. The street lighting system is exceptionally poor and the greater portion of the streets are without lights at all.

Housing

The Negro is equally poorly housed, since 70 per cent are renters rather than home owners. Many of the structures are "shotguns" constructed without bath rooms, sanitary toilets or any of the minimum essentials necessary to common decency in living. For the most part, several of these houses are placed on one lot, eliminating in the outset the possibility of proper sunlight and fresh air. The fact these homes do not have sanitary toilets, means the use of cesspools and outdoor privies. A recent survey of Negro housing conditions in one of the wards of Houston pointed out the disgraceful situation that existed in this section of the city. A large number of the cesspools were connected with the street ditch and emptied the contents therein periodically, while the very odor of some of the blocks indicated the outhouses needed immediate attention. To supplement these deplorable conditions is the fact that these houses are poorly built. The walls are single, some having ceilings while others do not. Many of the rooms have only one window.

What has been pointed out in regard to the housing problem in the Negro community is also true in regard to the Negro school and church. As a race, we do little in the way of cleanliness and beautification. Frank S. Horne has written a very interesting and pertinent article in the Negro

Journal of Education Year Book Number-1936 entitled, "Doghouse Education." This article depicts the general housing condition of Negro education in the South, showing that the general run of Negro school buildings is comparable to the average doghouse. Interesting enough, where we have had the physical set-up of wholesome, clean schools, in less than nine months, the buildings and properties have been so misused and maltreated that they have acquired all of the earmarks of the Negro community. Thus, while we are teaching historic facts, we overlook the simple matters of the proper care of property and campus beautification.

Church

A recent study of fifty-six Negro churches with an estimated value of more than a half million dollars, showed that only twenty-one had sanitary facilities inside, twenty had sanitary facilities outside, and sixteen had outdoor privies. Many of the outside sanitary facilities and outdoor privies for both sex were under one roof, similar to the type of outhouses offered to Negroes by the railroads in the small towns of the South. The fact that most of our small churches are located on the ordinary city lot, fifty by one hundred feet, means that the outhouse, of necessity, is too close to the church. For the most part, these structures are in a dilapidated condition as well as unsightly and health hazzards to the community.

Recreation

The inadequacy of recreational facilities is no better demonstrated in the South than in Houston. According to the Texas Bulletin, U. S. Census, 1930, the Negro population of this City was 63,337 or 21.7 per cent of the total population. According to the report of the City Planning Commission, Houston, Texas, 1928, the total park area of the city was placed at slightly over 2,600 acres. Of this amount, ten acres or .0038 per cent was utilized for Negroes. Up to the present time the Negro park area has not been increased. Our guess is that similar inadequacies prevail in many other Texas cities.

Health

In passing, we should address ourselves to the effect of these conditions on Negro life. In the light of the foregoing facts, should we wonder that the Negro communuity affords the highest crime and death rate of any racial group in the state? The most casual perusal of a mortality table will indicate at a glance the frightful toll that influenza, pneumonia, tuberculosis, malaria, and pellagra are exacting among Negroes yearly. Dr. Booker T. Washington did much towards making the Negro health conscious by instituting "Negro Health Week." But Negro Health Week will never prove effective until the white people of the South become interested in the health of the Negro community, realizing that any considerable improvement in their own health awaits, in a very large measure, the improvement of the health of the Negroes who live and work among them.

There is no reasonable excuse in our recent civilization for the existence of such conditions as pointed out by W. L. Austin of the U. S. Bureau of Census, who says that out of 100,000 Negro male babies born alive, 91,268, as compared with 93, 769 white male babies will complete the first year of life. He also points out that, while 29,471 white males will attain the age of 75 years, only 14,419 Negro males will reach the same age level. Further, there is no justification for two racial groups to live side by side and the white male of 16 years of age have an expectation of life ten years longer than the Negro male, while the white female has an expectation of life twelve years longer than the Negro female.

If the interest of the white citizens in the health of Negroes is reduced to a personal issue, we find thousands of Texas Negroes employed as domestic and personal servants such as butlers, waiters, cooks, chauffeurs, yard men, laundresses, and others engaged in household duties. The bulk of these people come in daily contact with members of the other group. This simply means that an epidemic in one community quickly finds its way into the other community.

That the conditions of the Negro community breed crime is ably substantiated by a recent bulletin issued by the U. S Bureau of Census. The Bulletin indicates that, while the Negro constitutes only 14.7 per cent of the total population of the state of Texas, he comprises 34.7 per cent of the prison population. In large measure, this is due to the unconcerned attitude exemplified toward Negro criminals. This attitude encourages anti-social behavior in the Negro community.

What Will We Do?

One could enumerate the earmarks of the Negro community at length, but in the final analysis he is confronted with the problem that impatiently awaits a solution. What will the Negro do about these problems? Will he continue to overemphasize the frivolities at the expense of community betterment and the abundant life? Will the men continue to be boys and the women continue to be girls among the races of people? In short, will the Negro continue to fiddle and dance and live in squalid circumstances? It is doubtlessly true that the basic causes of the Negro community adopting definite characteristics are due to the Negro's poverty and its accompanying evils, together with ignorance.

There is no feasible reason why the Negro community should not be made as clean, as healthful, and as attractive as possible by the Negro himself, despite the unconcerned attitude of the city fathers. The characteristics of the Negro community of Texas are a serious challenge to all who have had the advantage of training. They should set examples by making their actions of instructional value to those who are less fortunate. Most people can be educated to desire decent dwellings. Education will also help landlords, real estate dealers and building contractors to realize more clearly their responsibilities for the provision of safe, sanitary, convenient, and healthful houses. Finally, if the Negro comes out of mud and filth, he will do so by lifting himself by his own boot straps.

OFFICIALS ACCLAIM U. S. HOUSING PROJECT

Commercial Appeal 6-29-37 Memphis, Tenn.

Slums In Many Cities Disappear, New Homes Go Up

WASHINGTON, June 28.—(AP)—Public works officials rejoiced today that Cleveland, Memphis and Toledo and other slums have given way to carefully named home developments costing $135,000,000.

University homes have gone up on Beaver's Slide in Atlanta; Jane Addams houses have supplanted the "Bloody Eighteenth" in Chicago, and Brand Whitlock homes are rising in Toledo's Lucas Alley.

The federal program began two years ago. PWA officials said about 21,000 families will be living in the 51 modern developments by August, 1938.

Seven completed projects already are fully tenanted.

The homes are entirely modern. Every room has windows, and every kitchen has either gas or electric stoves and mechanical refrigeration.

Status of the seven projects now in use, with the number of dwelling units and average rentals follow:

Techwood Homes, Atlanta, 604 units, from $16.40 to $21.85 a month.

University Homes, Atlanta, 675 units, $2.65 to $5.10 a week.

Stanley S. Holmes Village, Atlantic City, N. J., 277, $16.20 to $25.

Liberty Square, Miami, Fla., 243, $3.73 a week.

Parklawn, Milwaukee, 518, $16.20 to $26.78.

Riverside Heights, Montgomery, Ala., 100, $17.82.

William B. Paterson Courts, Montgomery, Ala., 156, $3.10 per week.

(Rentals are charged by the month on white persons' homes, by the week on those for negroes).

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

General

CHILD WELFARE AMONG NEGROES IS INCREASING

Colored Specialist In Development Of Program

NEW YORK—State governments, especially in the South, are cooperating with the Children,s Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor in programs to include Negro children in child and community welfare work, the NAACP was informed by Dr. Martha Eliot, assistant chief of the Bureau.

Dr. Eliot cited the work of Dr. Walter H. Maddux, colored specialist in children's diseases, who is a member of the staff of the bureau. Dr. Maddux at present is working in the state of Mississippi giving post graduate short courses in the care of mothers and children and assisting in the development of better programs for school and pre-school children.

Dr. Eliot also reports that the program submitted by the states for child welfare work invariably includes Negro children and most of the state programs provide for the employment of Negro social worker. These latter are frequently used in county child welfare units in Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Florida and other southern states. Pennsylvania has a Negro social worker on its state staff to explore the needs of Negro children in rural areas. It is reported to the NAACP that in some of the counties in North Carolina white social workers have at least 50 per cent Negro cases.

The NAACP points out that colored people in states can assist the Children's Bureau by taking up with their state welfare boards the particular needs of Negro children with the suggestion that a program be devised by the state board for improving their lot.

N.A.A.C.P. OFFICIAL INVESTIGATES TREATMENT OF NEGROES IN FLOOD AREA

N.A.A.C.P. Urges Red Cross Send More Colored Social Workers to Flood Districts

Press Release - the N.A.A.C.P.

2-26-37

Memphis, Tenn. Feb. 26.- Roy Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. and Editor of the Crisis, arrived today in his tour of investigation of treatment of Negroes in the flooded area. When compared with the usual experiences of the N.A.A.C.P. in such situations, "Louisville was a revelation in fair dealing and I think a few new gains were registered as far as race relations, particularly the separation of the races, are concerned," declared Mr. Wilkins. Louisville has about six Negro social workers on the Red Cross payroll and, according to Miss Helen Colwell, Red Cross case supervisor at Louisville, ten more trained Negro social workers could be used were they in Louisville.

Upon the basis of Mr. Wilkins' findings the N.A.A.C.P. dispatched from its New York office today a telegram to J. Blaine Guinn urging that qualified colored social workers be dispatched as speedily as possible to the affected regions.

Mr. Wilkins reports that under the impulse of the danger during the flood many of the usual prejudices and taboos fell by the wayside. There was a minimum of separation and discrimination. Negroes, up to this point, have drawn the same food, the same quality, the same quantity, and received their share of clothes, bedding and other relief supplies. Negro volunteers during the disaster, which included teachers from closed schools and students and teachers from the Louisville Municipal university for Negroes, at first waited on white and colored alike. Later, local social workers complained about Negroes issuing food tickets to whites and interviewing whites. There is no record of complaint from the clients, nor did any official of the Red Cross see anything wrong with this procedure. However, separate district stations are now being set up for follow-up work.

Red Cross officials assured Mr. Wilkins that every person is going to be treated fairly, regardless of race. Loans at the low interest rate of 3% with no interest charge for the first four months from the Federal Disaster Loan Corporation were carefully checked by Mr. Wilkins whose survey revealed that Negroes with histories warranting credit are being granted loans freely.

The farther South he goes, Mr. Wilkins reports, the less favorable is the picture. In Memphis, however, thirteen Negroes are employed by the Red Cross as junior social workers and are being paid at the same wage scale as whites. Mr. Wilkins is carefully

checking on the reported police shanghaing of Negroes for levee work and of the manner in which disaster loans and other funds for rehabilitation are being distributed.

Mr. Wilkins's tour will carry him into many of the smaller towns and rural areas of Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. He will make a more detailed report upon conclusion of his survey.

Social Conditions, Improvement of - 1937

General

CHILD WELFARE AMONG NEGROES IS INCREASING

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Augusta, Ga. Herald
February 19, 1937

WHEN WAGES ARE TOO LOW TO AFFORD DECENT LIVING

CHARLOTTE, N. C., like Augusta and many other cities, is making a determined effort to improve health conditions.

The Negroes were asked to cooperate in the movement at Charlotte and a committee of fifteen colored leaders made a study of conditions there and reported that the majority of Negroes interviewed do not earn enough to live in any condition conducive to health and sanitation.

Not only the Negro, but large numbers of our white people, do not make sufficient money to provide the kind of living that is conducive to good health. This applies not only to the city, but to rural sections.

One of President Roosevelt's major ambitions is to improve the lot of the tenant farmer and the underprivileged city dweller. None will contend that this is not a worthy ambition.

Even under economic conditions that are generally viewed as favorable, a large portion of our population, white as well as colored, are compelled to accept a very low standard of living. It is this standard that the president would raise, and in that desire we are wholly in accord.

The plans now in the making, which provide for long term loans to small farmers and the improvement of housing conditions in the cities, are worthy of the support of us all.

Augusta civic leaders, led by Architect Brian Merry, had worked out a plan to eliminate the slum districts to some extent here, both among the white and colored people, but for some reason the federal government failed to give the cooperation that was indicated when the movement was set in motion.

Of course, no general improvement of conditions among the underprivileged can be expected until the wage level is increased. That ought to come as business forges ahead.

If the government is determined to improve the lot of the tenant farmer, then something should also be done for the industrial worker also. And a good place to start is here in Augusta, where plans are already available for a modern housing program.

PROBLEM OF NEGRO IS HELD NATIONAL

Eugene K. Jones Sees Solution for Race in Establishment of Economic Harmony

TRADE REVIVAL IS NEEDED

Child Labor Ban Is Urged in Discussion of Needs Before State Urban League

There can be no real solution of the special problems which face Negroes in industry and labor without a solution of the problem for the entire population, Eugene Kinckle Jones, executive secretary of the National Urban League, told 100 social workers and educators yesterday at a luncheon meeting which concluded a two-day conference called by the New York Urban League, 204 West 136th Street.

"The difficulties which face Negroes are directly related to those which the entire nation must meet," Mr. Jones said. "And in proportion as these difficulties are overcome by the general population they will be surmounted by Negroes, provided they gain recognition as an integral part of the nation.

"Revival of foreign commerce in cotton, steel, shipping, foodstuffs and timber improves the condition of the Negroes, for thousands of them are engaged in these industries. Likewise the work of Federal agencies in aiding tenant farmers, supplying low-cost housing and providing public works are shared by Negroes."

Enactment of the child labor amendment also would be of great help to Negro workers, Mr. Jones said, adding that, "although Negroes constitute less than 10 per cent of the total population, nearly one-fourth of the child labor performed in this country is the work of Negro children."

Vocational educaion and guidance among Negro children are hampered by an excessive pupil mortality and by retardation, according to Dr. Ambros Caliver of the Office of Education, Department of Interior, who based his conclusions on a recently completed nation-wide survey of vocational education and guidance opportunities among Negroes.

In the Southern States, he said, 75 per cent of the Negro children never get beyond the fifth grade, without ever advancing far enough to receive the benefits of training and guidance.

For those who go beyond, he urged widened opportunities, instruction in the technics of modern industry, and development of personality and character. In addition to these, effort must be made to change the attitudes of the pupils toward work, as well at the attitudes of parents, teachers and counselors, he asserted.

The conference adopted a resolution endorsing the Brownell bill now before the State Legislature. The bill, for which an appropriation of $50,000 is asked, provides for the establishment of a commission to study the social and economic conditions facing urban Negroes throughout the State.

Sidney Lake, principal of the New York Industrial High School, suggested the establishment of Negro enterprises as one means of providing jobs for Negroes. Other speakers included Dr. Franklin J. Keller, principal of Metropolitan Vocational High School; Miss Carita V. Roane of the New York State Employment Service, Miss Ann Arnold of the Emergency Relief Bureau, Dr. Roy N. Anderson of Teachers College, Columbia University; Lester B. Granger of the National Urban League, Mrs Emma Penn of the Harlem Y. W. C. A. Trade School, and Dr. J. E. Mayman of the WPA guidance project.

A Change Needed

Negroes performed a large proportion of the labor in saving lives and property in the flooded areas along the Mississippi. At the same time they received less than their due in Red Cross relief. News stories printed in this paper at the time and the investigation completed recently by Roy Wilkins of the N. A. A. C. P. agree that this was true.

If the extra burden of work is accounted for on the ground that Negroes, being poor, were in the direst need, then they should have received more, not less, relief. If it be argued that they, being mostly laborers, were best fitted to man the levees, it was only fair that their families should have been looked after cheerfully. Any way the situation is viewed, the policy of the Red Cross in that area is found inadequate.

Mr. Wilkins thinks the solution of the problems lies in the Red Cross' putting Negroes both on the regular staff and in the reserve.

The river will rise again, and prejudice of the local executives will continue to limit its personnel to whites, unless foresight dictates a change of Red Cross policy. There should be such a change. Negroes have carried sand bags, and they have also been the valiant health guardians, as Memphis and New Orleans have proved in past epidemics. It is entirely reasonable that they be included in the ranks of service where their numbers make them a considerable part of the distressed to be helped.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
May 9, 1937

AND HOW ABOUT TENNESSEE?

Illinois is to be added to the number of states which are having trouble about their old-age pension laws. Payments have ceased temporarily, because the allotment of federal funds has been exhausted and its own appropriation is almost gone.

The difficulty arose in that State, as in various others where it has been experienced, because of the underestimate by a considerable margin of the number of persons who would qualify under the statute. The State authorities were told when the measure was introduced that the number of pensioners in Illinois would not possible exceed 65,000; whereas, there are already about 125,000 recipients. As usual, politics has been injected into the situation.

It is estimated that at least 10,000 names on the roll represent political favoritism.

The Legislature appropriated $9,000,000 and Governor Hornor is preparing to negotiate a loan to tide matters over until the Legislature can deal with the situation. It is indicated that an appropriation of $1,000,000 a month for this purpose for the next two years must be made.

Instances are becoming numerous in which State Legislatures were led to make far from adequate provision for the payment of pensions because of the faulty estimates that had been laid before them from seemingly authentic sources. In Missouri, Texas, and in Illinois, the actual number of individuals thus far certified for pensions has been from two to four times as many as had been indicated in the estimates that had been laid before the General Assembly.

Whether Tennessee is to repeat that experience, of course, only the future can say. It is highly probable, however, that the estimated 22,000 of prospective beneficiaries is far below what will be developed when the plan gets into actual operation. There are about 135,000 persons in Tennessee 65 years of age and over. A close survey made of eight counties in the neighboring State of North Carolina which were regarded as being typical of the State at large showed that 50 per cent of the white persons of that age would be eligible for pensions and 89 per cent of the Negroes. Should the eligibility thus indicated in North Carolina be found under the test of experience to be applicable in Tennessee, the number of pensioners in this State would be several times more than the estimate that was laid before the General Assembly, and the expense, of course, would be proportionately increased.